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Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

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SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

HOLY MASS – THE EUCHARIST

In Church: Sunday at 10.00am. In winter in Chapel: on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 10.00am.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT with benediction on Wednesday after 10.00am Mass.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION Mass: 10.00am and 6.00pm.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - by appointment with Fr Greg. Parish Priest is available to visit sick parishioners who are sick at home and may administer the **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**. Please telephone landline or mobile to request an appointment with the priest.

For more info: webpage www.stjosephsdundee.org.uk

HOMILY HELP

In the person of Jesus, God becomes vulnerable, ultimately sacrificing his life on the cross for our sins. But God also became vulnerable many centuries before, in the presence of Abram. The ritual we hear described in the first reading, featuring two parties walking between the carcasses of animals that were sacrificed, split in half, and placed opposite each other, was often used in ancient cultures from this era to ratify a significant covenant. The tradition symbolized the seriousness of the covenant: if one party broke their promise, they would meet the same fate as these animals. Note that though Abram constructs the passage, he does not walk through it. Only God passes through it. Only God is bound by the covenant. Only by God's grace can Abram and his descendants keep the covenant.

RIGHTEOUSNESS – continued

Notice, though, how precious Abraham's trust was to God when Abraham finally did manage it: God counted it for righteousness. When we lament our sins and long for the righteousness God has promised his people, this is a good story to remember. *Eleonore Stump*

St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Eleonore Stump

In the First Reading, God promised Abraham that his descendants would be innumerable, and Abraham trusted him and believed the promise. God counted that trust as an act of righteousness on Abraham's part.

Then God promised to give Abraham the land around him. In response, Abraham asked, "How am I to know that I will possess it?"

That doesn't sound like a trusting response, does it? If you promised me that you would give me some CDs, and I said, "How do I know that you will give them to me?," you would be insulted, wouldn't you?

If you were actually willing to honour my question, then you might try to allay my scepticism in some way. But here is what God did. He had Abraham sacrifice some animals, and then he sent Abraham a terrifying darkness and a vision of fire over the sacrifice. While Abraham was having that vision, God reiterated his promise to Abraham and developed it: God promised to give Abraham the land and told Abraham that his descendants would live in it.

How is this response supposed to allay Abraham's scepticism? It consists just in a repetition of the original promise together with some fireworks—a fearful darkness and a display of power over Abraham's sacrifice.

It is as if in answer to my scepticism about your promise of CDs, you were to say to me, "I promise you that you will really get them! And I am powerful enough to make things happen." But what was in doubt was my reliability to keep my promises, not my power to do so.

God's response to Abraham's doubt is like this. Even with the fireworks in the vision, it still requires Abraham to trust God in just the way he wasn't willing to do when he asked, "How do I know that you will give them to me?"

What is the point of God's response then? In fact, what is the point of God's making the promise of the land in the first place? If God wants Abraham to have this land, why doesn't God just give it to him *now*?

The answer to all the questions is implicit in the answer to that last question. God wasn't trying to be Abraham's real estate agent. He was trying to develop a relationship with Abraham. But that relationship required trust in God on Abraham's part.

And trust in God came hard to Abraham. No sooner had he managed it, and gotten credit with God for it, then he lost it again, as the story makes clear.

RIGHTEOUSNESS – continues bottom of LHS column

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Like Advent, Lent is a season of preparation—in this case, for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice and the glory of his resurrection. We prepare our souls through repentance and our bodies through fasting. We prepare our relationship with God through prayer and our relationship with others through almsgiving. In today's reading, in the midst of all our preparation, we are given a preview of Christ's risen glory when he appears transfigured to Peter, John, and James. May the promise of a life transfigured encourage us as we continue to prepare for Easter glory.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Two dramatic scenes are narrated to us today. First, God seals the covenant with Abram by appearing as smoke and fire and passing between the animals Abram had sacrificed as a sign of his covenant with God. In the Gospel, Jesus is transfigured in glory, his face and clothing changing in appearance and dazzling the three apostles who witnessed it. Adding to the drama, God the Father speaks from the cloud that envelops them all, saying, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." Let us now listen to the word of God.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18
God enters into a Covenant with Abraham, the man of faith.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 26
'The Lord is my light and my help.'

Second Reading Philippians 3: 17 4: 1
Christ will transfigure our bodies into copies of his glorious body.

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:
"This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him."

Gospel Luke 9: 28-36
As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 9 MARCH 2025

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – His Holiness Pope Francis, Albert Soave, Peter Angus, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Margaret Forsyth, Saul Sangster, Rena Samson, Gillian Donnelly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Fletcher Ditchburn, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday and Margaret McDonagh. **May they feel the healing power of Christ, in body and in spirit.**

Please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith – for the souls of Janey Ireland, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Eva Ludwicka, Lorna Donachie and Marion Myles, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

SCIAF WEE BOX APPEAL 2025 – '60 years of change'

For 60 years, Scotland's Catholic community has walked with the poorest and most vulnerable people on Earth. Please support our Lenten Appeal this year and help us create a peaceful world for our sisters and brothers in need. The appeal this year is for Columbia. Please keep filling your WEE Boxes throughout Lent! Many thanks.

For more information about SCIAF and our Wee Box Columbian Appeal 2025, visit – www.sciaf.org.uk/weebox

HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON 07821 624 124

FEASTS AND MEMORIALS

ST PATRICK – FEAST

Monday 17 March

St Patrick (385-461) was kidnapped while very young and taken to Ireland, where he was put to work looking after sheep. On the lonely hillsides he learned to pray. He escaped, already within him a call to Priesthood. There was also an insistent call to return to Ireland and he spent the rest of his life there building up the Kingdom of Christ. He was fearless in facing opposition from powerful pagan rulers; he practised regular penance which became a strong feature of Irish monasticism; he instilled a missionary spirit which has lasted to the present day.

Wednesday 19 March

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY – SOLEMNITY

St Joseph is shown in the Gospels as the wise and just man, who had worked out the kindest way to deal with Our Blessed Lady's mysterious pregnancy, and who could then accept the will of God which pointed out a different path even when it contradicted his life plans. He has acquired many titles: Husband of Mary, Foster-Father of the Child Jesus, Guardian of the Holy Family, **Protector of the Church**, patron of a happy death.

CHANGE OF PLAN FROM LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

There will be a Mass held on this Wednesday at 10.00am which will now be held in the Church, and we shall be joined by the school. After the Mass, refreshments will be served in the church house dining room. Please join us for this special service and social event.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 09/03/25

Loose Plate £186 Gift Aid Envelopes £147
Standing Orders £259 Additional Offertories £0
Lectionary Donations £10
TOTAL £602

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE - St Clement's / St Ninian's Parishes are planning a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Sunday 24th to Thursday 28th August 2025. 4 nights/ 5 days from Edinburgh to Croatia. Cost based on two sharing - £690pp. Single supplement £225. Contact Fr Johney on 07831 580361 or Bernadette Dailly on 07919 106129. An information evening will be held in St Clement's Hall on Monday 24th March at 7.00pm.

200 CLUB 2025 – MARCH DRAW – held last Sunday

Congratulations to the winners:

1st Prize £100 Ticket Number 54 – Patricia Esgate
2nd Prize £25 Ticket Number 98 – Fraser Halliday
Additional numbers available – speak to Linda Gow.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – today, and every Sunday during Lent, in the church at 3.00pm. This will be led this Sunday by Fr Greg. Please try to make the time to come.

HOME BAKING EVENT – apologies – the corrected amount raised was £80 and not £75 as provided last week.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGE – all church cheques should now be made payable to: **TRUSTEES RC ST JOSEPHS 1** Thanks.

EAGLES WINGS TOILETRIES – there is a collection box in the porch area for donated toiletries for Eagles Wings. Thanks.