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## Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

Rev. Gregory Murphy OP  
Parish Priest

Chaplain to Dundee and Abertay Universities

42 Wilkie's Lane, Dundee DD1 5HR

Tel: (01382) 229 099

Mobile: 07598 113842

Email: [stjosephdundee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjosephdundee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk)

### 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](http://www.stjosephsdundee.org.uk)

### HOMILY HELP

The prodigal son is starving just the same as the Chosen People in the desert. He is willing to eat as poorly as one of his father's hired workers. Instead, his father spends his own wealth (for he'd already given his son half his legacy) to provide a feast for him, a banquet of reconciliation. The prodigal son sinned in every way possible, spurning his father and living a dissolute life. Yet the father welcomes him back with open arms. We recall this feast as we approach the Eucharistic table as sinners today, which itself foreshadows the banquet of reconciliation we are promised when we at last are united with God.

### HOMILY HELP

We can likely relate to each of the characters in this parable in some way. At times we have sheepishly returned to someone we've wronged and asked forgiveness. Other times we've resented that someone unworthy was rewarded and we've refused to be placated. We may also recall celebrating a loved one's apologetic return. Knowing that we have a heavenly Father who does this continually, let us adopt the attitude of the penitent son, who is rewarded with true reconciliation.

# St Joseph's Weekly Parish Newsletter

### TRADING PARCHED GRAIN FOR MANNA

In the First Reading, the Israelites are finally at the promised land. The Exodus is over and the Israelites eat parched grain from the produce of the land.

The Exodus was a tough time for the Israelites. But, almost from the start, there was one peril in the desert from which the Israelites did not suffer: lack of food.

That is because God himself fed them.

A funny kind of food appeared on the ground, and the Israelites gathered it in. When that food first showed up on the ground, the Israelites said, "WHAT is THAT?" — "MAH NA" in their language. (And 'manna' is what it came to be called by them, and by us.)

The Israelites learned fast what the answer to their question was. That stuff on the ground, the manna, was like Tolkien's lembas or Elven bread. It was unbelievably nourishing. You could go a very long time on just a little of it. And it was delicious. It was light; it had something of the taste of coriander about it; and there was a suspicion of honey in it, too. It was magically good, and it came from the hand of God, who hand-fed his people in the wilderness.

Who would ever want to give up manna?

But when the Exodus ended, the manna did too. One night the Israelites ate the parched grain of the promised land, and the next day there was no more manna.

I don't know what parched grain is, but it doesn't sound worth having by comparison with manna, does it? It doesn't sound delicious. It doesn't come from the hand of God; you have to get it for yourself. And you have to work to grow it. It doesn't just magically appear on the ground in the morning.

Who would ever want to trade manna for parched grain?

But the parched grain was the beginning of life in the promised land, where the Israelites found a home. The consoling sweetness of manna came out of the harshness of the conditions of the Exodus. Out of the sorrow of trading manna for parched grain there came the consolation of home.

And here is the lesson for us. The Lord's goodness never fails. It changes in character, but it is always there for us.

*Eleonore Stump*

### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

How can I be merciful like the father in this parable?

What resentments do I need to overcome?

Can I be truly forgiving to someone who has hurt me or those I love?

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Three and a half weeks into this forty-day journey through Lent, we may have become lost. Perhaps we have returned to our normal habits, chafing under the disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Perhaps we've slipped and found ourselves rationalizing our failures. The story of the prodigal son, which we hear today, reminds us that no matter what we have done or failed to do, God stands always ready to welcome us back. No matter how far we have strayed – **rejoice!** - for we are never too far gone to return to God.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

On the plains of Jericho, the Chosen People finally reach a fertile land that can produce food for them to eat. Paul extols God's goodness, for God reconciled the world through Christ. In the Gospel story of the prodigal son, the father is so overjoyed at his wayward son's return that he throws a huge feast, serving the choicest food and insisting his son wear the household's finest clothes. From beginning to end, we can, as we sing in the responsorial psalm, "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading** Joshua 5: 9-12

The People of God keep the Passover on their entry into the promised land.

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 33

**'Taste and see that the Lord is good.'**

**Second Reading** 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

***I will leave this place and go to my father and say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."***

**Gospel** Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

## PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS 30 MARCH 2025

**Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish** – His Holiness Pope Francis, Anna Pilley, 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 Terence Toner, Mgr Hugh McNally, Stuart Foy, Mike Branney and Jimmy Gibson, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them, and the souls of all the faithful departed, eternal rest.**

**HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON 07821 624 124**

## OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS LAST SUNDAY 23/03/25

**Loose Plate £133 Gift Aid Envelopes £160**

**Standing Orders £259 Additional Offertories £500**

**Lectionary Donations £10 + £10 + £7 = £27**

**TOTAL £1,079**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**2nd COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY 30 MARCH**

**PAPAL & EPISCOPAL CHARITIES (including SCIAF)**

## SCIAF SUNDAY – TODAY 30 MARCH 2025

On this SCIAF Sunday, we pray for all mothers around the world. We thank you, Lord, for giving us this precious gift – and we thank our mothers for the love and care they provide. We especially give thanks for mothers in Columbia, who, despite the challenges they face, provide their children with the love and support that they need to survive. Please give what you can in today's collection for SCIAF. You can also donate to SCIAF at [sciaf.org.uk/donate](http://sciaf.org.uk/donate) or by calling 0141 354 555. Thank you.

**Special SCIAF letter handout from Bishop Brian McGee, Bishop President of SCIAF, is provided for you to read and take away with you. Please make sure you have your copy.**

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK 2025

### Palm Sunday 13th April

10:00am Sunday Mass (start in car park, weather permitting)

### Holy Thursday 17th April

10:00am Morning Prayer

7:00pm Mass of the Last Supper

Altar of Repose after Mass

Night Prayer at 9.15pm

### Good Friday 18th April

10:00am Morning Prayer

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

### Holy Saturday 19th April

10:00am Morning Prayer

8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass

### Easter Sunday 20th April

10:00am Easter Day Mass

### Easter Monday 21st April

10.00am Mass

## LENTEN RECONCILIATION & GENERAL ABSOLUTION

This will take place on Wednesday 9 April at 7.00pm with Fr Greg. There will be an opportunity afterwards for individual reconciliation if anyone requires.

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

**SCIAF SUNDAY TODAY 30 MARCH** – Stations of the Cross and Prayer Service led by the Justice and Peace Group at 3.00pm. Please find time to come, you will be made most welcome. Thanks – Jack Smith.

**DEACON RON** – is now covering Victoria Hospital on Sundays and would be happy to provide Holy Communion to any catholic patient. Please speak to Deacon Ron direct.

**HOME BAKING** – reminder that there is no event in April and the next event is on Sunday 4 May. Many thanks.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES** – new envelopes now available, collect from porch desk. If you are interested in starting to add gift aid to your church donation, speak to John Sinclair.



**BLESSINGS AND LOVE TO ALL MOTHERS TODAY**