

Saint Joseph's Church



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SUNDAY READINGS PERSPECTIVE

Righteousness

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? ... 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. 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.

Elenore Stump

Welcome to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

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ANGELS UNAWARES



Angels Unaware is a bronze sculpture in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. At its inauguration Pope Francis said he wanted the sculpture "to remind everyone of the evangelical challenge of hospitality". The large sculpture depicts a group of migrants and refugees on a boat, originating from diverse cultures and historical moments and shows the different moods and emotions involved in a migrant's journey. The work includes angel wings, suggesting that a migrant is secretly an angel in our midst.

Social Group...£72.00 was raised from last weeks Home Baking Event. Thank you to all who supported, very much appreciated! There will be no Home Baking Events during the Lenten period. Margaret Sinclair.

Weekly Parish Bulletin

The kindness of strangers

We are facing the biggest refugee crisis since 1939, as we see images of desperate people fleeing unjust war in Ukraine, laden down with what they can carry, on roads and on rail station platforms and trains, recalling other images we had thought to be consigned to history almost a century ago. While there has been war in Europe since (the Balkan civil war after the implosion of Yugoslavia) the attack by Russia on an independent nation state on its borders threatens the international order established at such cost in 1945.

83 years ago our country was generous in accepting refugees, and gained immensely from it – from the émigré Jewish physicists who were instrumental in developing the atomic weapons that ended the war, to the German Jewish children sent away by their families to a possible place of safety who later contributed in so many ways to our society, to the Polish airmen who formed a substantial part of Britain's fighter pilots in the Blitz. Our present government's niggardly and inept response to this present crisis shames us all.

One of the themes that echoes constantly in the descriptions of the new society the Lord is encouraging his Chosen people to exemplify, especially in the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy which we read at the beginning of Lent, is of showing kindness to the aliens among us, caring for the marginalised and lost, typified by the widow and the orphan, summed up in the command to show our love of God in the love of our neighbour. With the bulletin today I enclose a letter from the Provincial Vicar of the Dominicans in Ukraine, giving a description of their present circumstances, and details of where donations may be made.

Fr Greg.



**ST JOSEPH'S
NEWSLETTER**
13th March 2022

Parish website at: www.stj1.co.uk

Bulletin and Newsletter contact: Fr Greg
stjosephdundee@dunkelldioocese.org.uk

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

The Lord is my light and my help

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17 -4:1

Our homeland is in heaven, from where Christ comes to transform us

Gospel

Luke 9: 28-36

Jesus is transfigured before them

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Maureen Clement-Smith, Marjory Robson, Elinor Crighton, Cathie Soave, Fletcher Ditchburn, Tony Beck, Kathleen McAvoy, Douglas Black, Monica Docherty, Anya Behl, May Cosgrove and Joseph White. **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 Wilma Robb, Anthony Finnerty, Marion Myles, Mary Smith, Michael G McBride, Ewa Ludwicka and Cardinal Keith O'Brien whose anniversaries occur around this time. **that they may be with their Saviour in paradise.**

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Thursday 17th, St Patrick, bishop, patron of Ireland.

Friday 18th, St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor of the Church

Saturday 19th St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patronal feast

Please continue to pray for peace in the Ukraine.

HOSPITAL PRIEST CONTACT ON
07821 624124

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Last Sunday 6/03/22, Loose Plate
**£54.53, GA £237.50, SO £233,
total £525.03.**

Thank you for your support.

SCIAF News

Build God's Kingdom here on earth

Each of us has a role to play in tackling the climate crisis, but it is only by coming together that we can build God's Kingdom here on Earth. Your support of SCIAF's WEE BOX appeal not only changes lives today but sets families up to survive the worst impacts of a changing climate tomorrow. How will you help to build God's Kingdom here on Earth? For more information on the SCIAF WEE BOX BIG CHANGE appeal please visit sciaf.org.uk/resources or call 0141 354 5555

JOINT COFFEE MORNING

We have been invited to join with the Cathedral parishes for a Coffee Morning for SCIAF to be held in the Cathedral Hall on **Saturday 26 March (after 10.00am Mass)** **Tickets are available now £1.** Donations for Raffle Prizes, bottles and home baking for a Cake and Candystall will be gratefully received.

PLEASE CONTACT PAT SMITH FOR FURTHER DETAILS-01382 668540.

SCIAF AID FOR UKRAINE

there is a SCIAFfund set up for those affected so terribly by the horrific situation which exists in Ukraine at this time. if you would like to make a donation to sciaf efforts please put your donation in an envelope clearly marked and

I shall ensure the monies are sent off quickly. it would be helpful if you could make your donations in the next week or so.

Fr. Greg

An ACN Prayer for Ukraine

Psalm 67: 1 RSV-CE

May God be gracious to us and bless us

*and make his face to shine upon us.
Everlasting, Merciful God,
Hear the cries of your people!
We ask you to comfort those fleeing the deafening and frightening sounds of violence*

*Be their refuge!
Strengthen and encircle them in your love and guide all refugees to safety, security and a warm, welcoming reception.*

Through the power of the Holy Spirit Transform the hearts of politicians, diplomats, leaders of armed forces and those under their command To bring an end to the violence, so that

your perfect peace will take root and flourish both in Ukraine and in Russia.

Holy Mary, the Mother of our Lord, the Eternal Word,

Lead us to your Son and the truth of His death on the cross to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We ask you to protect under your mantle all who are assisting and providing sanctuary for families fleeing the conflict.

O Morning Star! Queen of Peace! Faithful handmaid of our Lord Pray for all, who are affected by the bloodshed in Ukraine and Intercede for us to your Son our Redeemer.

*Amen.
Heavenly Father,
Your will for your people is peace, not war.*

Pour out on our world, especially in Eastern Europe, your Spirit of compassion and solidarity.

Grant all those who believe in you the strength to be close to those who suffer

and the courage to resolve their differences and conflicts in truth and without resort to arms.

Be with the widow, the orphan, the refugee and the peacemaker.

*Bind us all into the peace of your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.*