

FUNDRAISING FOR ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL IN PAKISTAN

There is a basket of hand made items at the back of the church containing notebooks, small scrapbooks, embellishments, gift tags, recipe notebooks etc which would be excellent stocking fillers whilst helping a charity abroad. Suggested donation per item would be from 50p for the smallest items, upwards at your discretion for larger ones. Anything raised would be most gratefully appreciated.

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service was spiritual uplifting Celebration of Joy; a fitting way to hail Christmas. Thank you to all the readers, singers, musicians, Mary Joyce who carried the Baby Jesus and the talented Glee Choir from St Ninian's School. A huge thank you must go to the mighty congregation who sang out the 12 days of Christmas with great gusto conducted admirably by Fr Michael.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE APPEAL

The amount raised for the Rainwater Harvester was £190. With a donation of £50 from CC's we have the amount required for the Harvester. The winner of the Christmas Hamper was Jim Hampton and the Teddy Bear was won by Meeval Maria Vinesh. Thank you to all who contributed. This is what Christmas is about!

ST JOSEPH: OFFERTORY COLLECTION - SUNDAY 14/12/25

Loose Plate £159 Gift Aid Envelopes £193
Standing Orders £353 Maintenance Fund £10
Additional Offertories £21 TOTAL OFFERTORIES £736

ST JOSEPH'S - 200 CLUB 2025 - DECEMBER BIG DRAW It's the big Christmas Draw today with 3 prizes - £200, £100 and £50. Best of luck to everyone. Thanks for all your support - *Linda Gow*.

Don't forget to renew your subscription for 2026. Tickets are £25 for the 12 monthly draws. You can pay for your yearly ticket by cash, cheque, BACS or if you prefer, each month January to November at £2 and £3 for the BIG Draw in December. *Can't win if you don't join in!* Make **cheques** payable to: **TRS RC ST JOSEPHS 1** and payment by **BACS**: Sort Code **80 73 31** and account number **0074 7101** and reference **200 Club**.

ST JOSEPH'S - THANKS TO THOSE THAT SUPPORTED Christmas Greenery - many thanks to those who provided greenery and came along and helped dress the church and altars for Christmas on Tuesday afternoon.

Clarsach/Harp Music Recital - many thanks to Mary Veal and her music students for providing a lovely musical afternoon on Monday which was enjoyed by us all. Carol of the Bells was beautiful.

Eagles Wings Winter Warmers - best response ever to this appeal this year - thanks to you all.

CECILIAN CHOIR'S ANNUAL CAROL FESTIVAL - SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER The Annual Festival of Carols by the Cecilian Choir will be held in St Andrew's Cathedral on the Fourth Sunday of Advent - **TODAY** 21 December - at 3.00pm. This is a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas so do try to come along.

ST JOSEPH'S - CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IN SUPPORT OF SCIAF Kevin and Monica Veal and family offer to all their fellow parishioners every good wish for Christmas, and good health and happiness throughout 2026.

Theresa and Graeme Prophet wish Father Michael, friends and parishioners a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Moirá Farquharson wishes everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy 2026.

Ally and Veronica Crighton wish all St Joseph's parishioners a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jack and Pat Smith and family - wish all parishioners and friends at St Joseph's a Happy and Holy Christmas and all good wishes for good health in the New Year.

To all parishioners - Peace and Joy over the Christmas period - Linda Gow.

Christmas Greetings to all parishioners and friends at St Joseph's and may you all have a Happy New Year - Betty Page.

Nick Marra wishes Father Michael and all parishioners a very happy Christmas and a New Year of peace and prosperity.

Pat & Peter Esgate wish all of the parishioners of St Joseph's a Holy and Merry Christmas, with Best Wishes for the coming New Year.

To all at St Joseph's Church - thank you for keeping me in your prayers and wishing you all a Merry Christmas. Lisa Gillespie xx.

Alan & Maggie Newell wish everyone at St Joseph's a blessed Christmas and a happy 2026.

Wishing you and all those close to you a very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and hope for a world at peace. With much love - Roz, Paul and Taylor family.

Wishing Father Michael, Deacon Ron, Mrs Wylie and all parishioners and friends - Merry Christmas and very best wishes for 2026 - Irene Blaney.

Elinor Crighton and family wish all friends and parishioners at St Joseph's a joyous Christmas.

Margaret Forsyth would like to wish Father Michael, friends and congregation of St Joseph's a very Happy Christmas and healthy 2026. I would also thank you for all your prayers during this year.

John and Margaret Sinclair send Christmas greetings to all friends and parishioners at this joyous time of the year.

Merry Christmas to Parishioners and friends and may God bless you in the year ahead with peace and happiness - Albert and Cathie Soave.

We wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Love and best wishes to all at St Josephs. Romana and Ian Hunter.

Welcome to St Ninian's RC Church, Menziesshill St Joseph's RC Church, Wilkie's Lane

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Dunkeld Diocese Charity Number SC001810



Our Sunday Masses:

Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church

Sunday Mass:

9.30am in St. Ninian's RC Church

11am in St Joseph's RC Church

Daily Masses

St Ninian's RC Church:

Tuesday; 6pm

Wednesday; 10am

Friday; 10am.

St Joseph's RC Church:

Wednesday; 6pm

Thursday; 10am

Saturday; 10am

Holy Days of Obligation:

Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church

Day Masses:

Morning: As announced.

St Joseph: 6pm

EXPOSITION;

Saturday; 10.30am to 11am in St Joseph's Church

Friday; 10.30am to 11am in St. Ninian's Church

Birthday Celebrations; 3rd Sunday of the month

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession

St Ninian; Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm.

St. Joseph; Saturday 10.30am.

Do You Know?

why the Church invites you to stand, sit, and kneel during the Holy Mass?

These sacred postures are not random; they are bodily prayers that express our faith and interior disposition.

■ **Standing** - a posture of reverence and readiness. It shows respect, resurrection, hope, and attentiveness before God.

✓ When: At the Entrance Rite, Gospel, Profession of Faith, Prayer of the Faithful, Lord's Prayer, and Final Blessing.

✓ *Scripture:* "Stand firm in the Lord" (Philippians 4:1).

✓ CCC: Standing expresses readiness and reverence before God [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) §1146.

■ **Sitting** - a posture of listening and reflection. It shows attentive listening, meditation, and receptivity.

✓ When: During the First and Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Homily, and Preparation of the Gifts.

✓ *Scripture:* "Mary sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching" (Luke 10:39).

✓ CCC: Listening to God's Word forms faith (§1154).

■ **Kneeling** - a posture of humility and adoration.

It shows worship, repentance, and awe before Christ truly present.

✓ When: During the Eucharistic Prayer (especially the consecration) and often after Holy Communion.

✓ *Scripture:* "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend" (Philippians 2:10).

✓ CCC: Kneeling signifies adoration and submission to God (§1378).

Through these gestures, our bodies join our hearts in worship. Therefore we are encouraged to Participate actively in every mass.

Sunday 21 December 2025

Readings at Mass

First reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive.'

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R. cf. 6

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.

Second reading

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means,
God with us.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph,

being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Emmanuel' —
which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

Bidding Prayers

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, as we await the coming of Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us place our prayers before the Father with trust and hope.

For the Church:

That she may faithfully proclaim Christ, the promised Emmanuel, and prepare the world to welcome Him with open hearts.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For the world and its leaders:

That nations may seek justice, peace, and compassion, allowing God's will to shape decisions that protect human dignity.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For the environment:

We pray that we will come to see that earth and all its fullness belongs to Christ and not to us, and so fulfil our duty to care for it.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For families and expectant parents:

That, like Mary and Joseph, they may trust God's plan and welcome life with faith and courage.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For the sick, the lonely, and those burdened with worry:

That the nearness of Emmanuel may bring them comfort, healing, and hope.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For our parish community:

That this Advent may deepen our readiness to receive Christ at Christmas through prayer, reconciliation, and love.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

For the faithful departed:

That they may rejoice forever in the presence of God.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us

Celebrant:

Faithful God, you keep your promises. Hear the prayers we make in hope, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection on the Readings

Dear brothers and sisters, on this final Sunday of Advent, the Word of God invites us to contemplate the great sign of God's faithfulness: **Emmanuel — God with us.**

In the first reading, King Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign, masking fear with false piety. Yet God remains faithful. Through Isaiah, He promises a sign not because humanity deserves it, but because God is merciful: "*The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.*" Salvation is not our achievement; it is God's initiative.

Saint Paul reminds us in Romans that this promise is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, *descended from David yet Son of God*. In Him, heaven and earth meet. God enters our history, our weakness, our uncertainty.

The Gospel presents us with Joseph, a quiet, righteous man. His greatness lies not in words but in obedience. Faced with confusion and fear, Joseph listens, trusts, and acts. He welcomes Mary, and with her, he welcomes God's plan. Where Ahaz hesitated, Joseph surrendered.

As Christmas approaches, the question is personal: **Will we make room for Emmanuel?** God still comes quietly; in unexpected ways, through interrupted plans, in calls to trust rather than control. Like Joseph, may we rise from fear, obey God's word, and allow Christ to be born anew in our hearts and in our world.

Emmanuel — God is truly with us.

Pray for the Sick

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital – Stuart Findlay, Sally Helen Hamm and Dominic Roberts-Brown, Bill Buttars, Paul Walker, Bishop Stephen Robson, May McGeary, Catherine Reid, Lusia, Brian Murphy, Lizzie Ward, Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan, Betty Saunders Pamela Herron, Maureen Walker, George Adam, Margaret Mackie, Elinor Crighton, Fletcher Ditchburn, Margaret Forsyth, Bill Martin, Peter Angus, Fr Malcolm Hutchison, Mary Clark, Bella Shaw, Angela Keith, Cecilia McCarten, Alan Newell, Albert Soave, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Saul Sangster, Rena Samson, Gillian Donnelly, Margaret Beck, Tony Beck, Anya Behl, Andrew Fyffe, Lyn Fyffe, Lisa Gillespie, Gerard Halliday and Margaret McDonagh. **May they feel the healing power of Christ, in body and in spirit.**

Pray for the Dead: Please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith - for the souls of John Gibson, Alistair McGregor, who has died recently, and for the souls of Matt Easton, Cathie McDonald, Jack McAinsh, Findlay Sinclair, Karen Blanchflower and Marie Bell Dewar, foundress of St



Joseph's, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Announcements

1. Mass on Monday 22nd

There will be mass on monday

the 22nd of December 2025 in St Ninian at 9.30am. All are welcome. Due to this, there will be no mass in the evening of Tuesday 23rd.

2. 200 club christmas winners for St Ninian: 14/12/25

1. No 52 M. Taylor

2. No 43 J. Ruddy

EVENTS FOR THE SEASON

DATE	FUNCTION	TIME	VENUE
22/Dec	St Ninian Primary School Mass	9.30am	St Ninian
24/Dec	Christmas Eve mass	5pm	St Ninian
	Carol service	7pm	St. Joseph
	Christmas Eve mass	7.30pm	St Joseph
25/Dec	Christmas Mass	9.30am	St. Ninian
	Christmas Mass	11am	St Joseph
01/Jan	New Year Mass	9.30am	St Ninian
		11am	St Joseph

ST NINIAN

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

8/12/2025: Off: £347.86, GA: £230.00, PMF: £187.35, GA: £110.00, (StA: £56.70 BREAD) **Total: £931.91.**

15/12/2025: Off: £339.27, GA: £268.50, Candles: £98.12. **Total: £705.89**

A CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE CHILDREN

The Children's Liturgy Group will take part in a short Christmas Story at the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 21 December.

ADVENT ECO-ACTIVITY WEEK 4: A WASTE-FREE CHRISTMAS MEAL

- Menu planning: Plan your meals carefully to avoid over-buying and food waste.

- Leftovers: get creative with leftovers to reduce waste.

- Sustainable food choices: when and where possible, choose local, seasonal food and consider reducing the amount of meat in your festive meal

PARISH

WEBSITE

BLOG

Check out our lovely video footage of St Ninian Parishioners singing Carols in Roxburgh House: <https://stniniansparish.co.uk/roxburgh-house-carol-singers/> Well done everyone!

THANK YOU FOR GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Many thanks for the generosity shown with this year's 'Giving Tree'. Once again, St Ninians have donated many presents which St Ninian's primary will distribute to the children most in need.