

that protect this resource and ensure it is shared equitably with those who lack it.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**For the faithful, that they may support SCIAF this Lent**

Lord, stir in us a generous spirit, that we may contribute through prayer, offering, and advocacy this Lent to support SCIAF in building a better world.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**For the care of our common home.**

Lord God, help us to be faithful stewards of the earth you have entrusted to us. Teach us to respect and protect the gift of water, land, and all creation, so that future generations may share in your abundant blessings.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**PRIEST** Loving and faithful God, hear the prayers we have offered with trust and hope. Grant them according to your will, and help us to be instruments of your love and justice in the world through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Pray for the Sick**

Please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital especially those of our Parish – Margaret Mackie, Fletcher Ditchburn, Margaret Forsyth, Gordon Sangster, Bill Martin, Mary Clark, Bella Shaw, Angela Keith, Cecilia McCarten, Alan Newell, Albert Soave, Bethany Williamson, Irene McKay, Saul Sangster, 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 soul of Elinor Crighton, who has died recently, and for the souls of Michael G McBride, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Janey Ireland, Ewa Ludwicka, Marion Myles and Lorna Donachie, whose anniversaries occur around this time. **May God grant them eternal rest.**



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Today we celebrate and pray for our brothers and sisters born in the month of March. May God bless you all.

**Holy Week Activities**

Days	St. Ninian	St Joseph
Palm Sunday	9.30am	11.00am
Holy Thursday	5pm	7.30pm
Good Friday	3pm	6.00pm
Holy Saturday	8pm	10.30pm
Easter Sunday	9.30am	11.00am

**DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EASTER GUIDANCE (HEALTH & SAFETY)**

As we approach Easter, please take a moment to review the guidance for services involving Easter fires and Paschal candles. These activities carry safety risks, especially as our churches will be particularly busy over the holiday. To support you, we've attached our insurers' guidance notes and a risk assessment—please have a look and take the recommended precautions to ensure a safe and joyful celebration for all.

**THIS WEEK'S EVENTS...**

**March 13-15** – Discernment Weekend: Navigating the way forward, Conforti House, Coatbridge

**March 14@10:15** – Lenten Retreat Experience, St Mary's Forebank

More information on events within the Diocese here:

<https://www.dunkelldioecese.co.uk/events/>

**SCOTLAND ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL**

On Tuesday 17 March, the Scottish Parliament will hold the final Stage 3 vote on Liam McArthur's extreme assisted suicide Bill. This Scottish Bill is even more extreme than the proposed change to the law in England and Wales. The Bill can be defeated. Every email you send to your local MSPs helps. *Please take action now by visiting [www.righttolife.org.uk/ScotlandFinalVote](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ScotlandFinalVote) to write to your MSP and ask them to vote NO on Tuesday 17 March - it takes just 30 seconds!*

**KINNOULL MONASTERY – RETREAT FOR CLERGY**

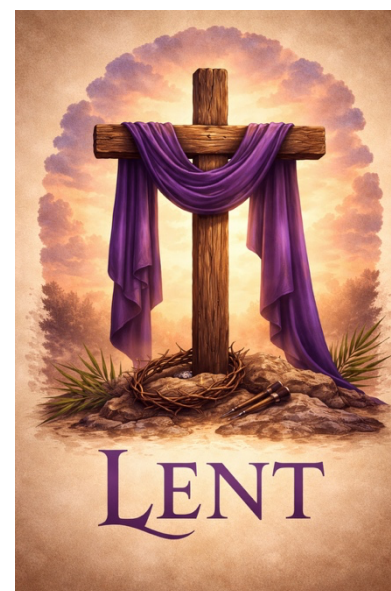
We have a Holy retreat from the evening of Tuesday 31st March until the morning of Saturday 4th April so that people can return to their parishes for the Easter Vigil. We also offer the opportunity for any of the clergy or laity to come for a few days of rest or relaxation, with the opportunity to join the community for prayer or spend time alone. Please contact: [info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk](mailto:info@kinnoullmonastery.co.uk) or (01738) 624075.

**Welcome to St Joseph's RC Church & St Ninian's RC Church**



*Sunday Newsletter*

**Rev. Michael Ngobili +441382669966**  
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 Dunkeld Diocese Charity Number SC001810



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.

**EXPOSITION;**

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

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

**Birthday Celebrations;** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

**Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession**

St Ninian; Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm.

St. Joseph; Saturday 10.30am.

**Know Your Faith: The Sacrament of Confirmation**

*The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church, together with Baptism and the Eucharist. In Confirmation, the baptized Christian is strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way. Just as the apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit at the event of Pentecost, so the confirmed Christian receives the grace to live and witness to the faith more courageously. During the sacrament, the bishop (or priest) anoints the person with sacred chrism oil and says, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." This sealing marks the Christian as belonging fully to Jesus Christ and as a committed member of the Church. Confirmation is not simply a ceremony of becoming an adult in the Church. Rather, it is a spiritual strengthening. The Holy Spirit grants gifts such as wisdom, understanding, courage, and reverence, helping the believer to live the Gospel faithfully. Through Confirmation, Catholics are called to be active witnesses of Christ in their families, communities, and the wider world.*

Sunday 15 March 2026

**4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) •**

*Liturgical Colour: Rose or Violet. Year: A(II).*

**Sunday Reflection**

**God Sees the Heart**

Today's readings give us one clear message: **God does not see the way we see; God sees the heart.**

In the first reading from First Book of Samuel, when Samuel went to choose a king from the sons of Jesse, he was impressed by the appearance of the older sons. But God stopped him and said: *"Not as man sees does God see; man looks at the appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."* The one God chose was David, the youngest, the one no one expected.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus Christ healed a man born blind. Physically, the man could not see, but spiritually he gradually came to recognize who Jesus was. Meanwhile, those who thought they saw—the Pharisees—remained blind because their hearts were closed.

This was why Paul the Apostle told us in the letter to the Ephesians: *"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."*

The real blindness in life is not the blindness of the eyes, but the blindness of the heart. When our hearts are proud, judgmental, or closed to God, we cannot see the truth.

But when we allow Christ to touch our hearts, our eyes are opened. Then we begin to see as God sees; beyond appearances and into the dignity and goodness in others.

## First reading

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a** ·

**David is anointed king of Israel.**

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the LORD’s anointed is before him.’ But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The LORD has not chosen these.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.’ And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, ‘Arise, anoint him, for this is he.’ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1**

***The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

The LORD is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me;

he revives my soul.

***The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

He guides me along the right path,

for the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,

no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

***The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

You have prepared a table before me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

my cup is overflowing.

***The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the LORD’s own house shall I dwell

for length of days unending.

***The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.***

## Second reading

**Ephesians 5:8-14** ·

**‘Arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’**

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

## Gospel Acclamation

**John 8:12**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

## Gospel

**John 9:1-41**

**‘He went and washed and received his sight.’**

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the

man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘It is he.’ Others said, ‘No, but he is like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” So I went and washed and received my sight.’ They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.’ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?’ And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, ‘Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ And they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?’ And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, ‘Are we also blind?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, “We see”, your guilt remains.’

## BIDDING PRAYERS

### Priest

Mindful of God’s love for all people and trusting in his mercy, let us bring before him our prayers for the church, for those in need, and for the whole world.

**For the Holy Church, that she may be a prophetic voice for water justice this Lent.**

Lord, grant Pope Leo, the Bishops, Clergy and all the faithful, the courage and wisdom to proclaim and act for the right to clean water, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable in Ethiopia.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**For the people of Ethiopia, where clean and safe water remains dangerously scarce.**

Lord, look with mercy on those in Ethiopia whose daily lives are marked by water scarcity. Open the way for fresh water to flow to their fields, homes and wells, sustaining their bodies and spirits.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**For SCIAF and its partners.**

Lord, bless the work of SCIAF, may their efforts in Ethiopia and around the world secure safe, reliable water for families, and may their collaboration with the global Church family continue to bear lasting fruit.

Lord, in Your mercy: Hear our prayer.

**For all communities worldwide suffering from water scarcity.**

Almighty God, inspire leaders and decision makers everywhere to recognise water as a common good and essential for all life. May they enact policies