



**18<sup>th</sup> December, 2022.**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, A.**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week:

Tuesday: 10.00am. and 12noon, Greenock crematorium service for Margaret Knight(Cunningham).

Wednesday: 10.00a.m. End of term Mass for Primary school children. All welcome.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00am.

Saturday: Christmas Eve: Carol Service at 11.30p.m. followed by Midnight Mass.

Sunday: Christmas Day: 10.00a.m.

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5.00p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Tuesday morning after Mass.

**Rosary:** The Rosary will be prayed after Mass in the Lady Chapel on Thursday mornings.

Please note the times of the **Christmas Masses:** Christmas Eve Carol Service at 11.30p.m. followed by Midnight Mass and Christmas day: 10.00a.m. There will be Confessions on Saturday at 5.00p.m. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Saturday, there will be no 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass.

Thank you to **Fr. Roddy Johnston**, parish priest of St. Andrew's, Rothesay, who gave a very interesting and thoughtful talk in the church hall on Wednesday evening. Thank you also to the parishioners who came along and to those who provided hospitality. On Tuesday evening, Fr. Philip will visit St. Andrew's Church in Rothesay and give an Advent related talk.

Fr. Roddy was very happy to participate in an ecumenical venture in Dunoon Grammar School on Tuesday called "**Experience Christmas**" which involved representatives of the local Christmas churches "breaking open" the Christmas story for first year pupils.

There will be **church cleaning** in preparation for Christmas on Thursday, 22nd December at 7.00 pm. All helpers welcome. Thank you to the parishioners who volunteer to clean the church throughout the year.

On Tuesday, 20th at 7.00pm in the parish hall we will be preparing the music liturgy for the **Carol Service** and **Christmas Midnight Mass**. If you would like to come please let Isobel know on 07711 677282 so that we can have as correct an amount of music/word copies as possible. Looking forward to seeing you.

### **Diocesan Prayer for Discernment:**

God of love, we come before you as the Diocese of Argyll & the Isles, humbly seeking your guidance in determining our way ahead.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, guide us and give us the grace and courage to go where you want us.

Cleansed and enlightened by your Holy Spirit may we follow in the footsteps of your beloved son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we stand at the crossroads and wonder what road to take, help us to discern the path you wish for us.

May we listen with an open heart and embrace your will.

Stir our hearts O Lord to consider what we can all do as individuals and be instruments of your Church's mission among all people using our talents.

**Reflection:** As Christmas approaches, people's hopes soar. However, the substance of these hopes is often dictated by commercial interests. Little wonder then, that when the sun goes down on Christmas Day, many feel disappointed. Those who pin their hopes on what the merchants promise will always be disappointed, not because they promise too little, but too much - of the wrong thing. What our hearts long for is a taste of what the angels promised to the shepherds: "Behold, I bring news of a great joy; today a saviour has been born to you". This joy is the real hope of Christmas, let us open our hearts to receive it. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).