



8th January, 2023.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, 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

Monday 10.00am. Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Tuesday: 11.00am. Requiem Mass for Johnnie Cairns.

Wednesday: 10.00a.m.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00am. St. Kentigern.

Saturday: 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass.

Sunday: 9.00a.m. and 11.00a.m.

Confessions: Saturday at 5.00p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday morning after Mass.

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

In Scotland, the **Day of Prayer for Peace** takes place today, Sunday, 8th January, Feast of the Epiphany. The Gospel narrative and the text of Isaiah together shape our traditional crib scene of kings, camels and lavish gifts. But the feast celebrates revelation itself. The Wise men's search, guided by the light of reason, takes them only so far. Only an encounter with Scripture-divine revelation- can perfect it, and lead them to find and worship the divine child. Our human capacities need to be enlightened by divine revelation to lead us to God and to Christ, the light which enlightens all of life.

Bishop Brian continues his consultations within the Diocese and he wants to know how we can best grow in the direction God desires for the future. His thoughts are outlined in his pastoral letter which is available from the church porch if you haven't picked up a copy as yet. The Bishop invites us all to join in this process of discernment. We begin with a two month spiritual preparation during which the Bishop will visit every parish to explain in person his vision and to listen to your comments and questions. He will visit our parish on Saturday, 28th January, 2023 at 7.00p.m in our church hall. Please come along. More details can be found on the Diocesan Website at www.rcdai.org.uk

A special collection for the work of the **Justice and Peace Commission** will be taken up next weekend. For more issues of social justice, and to keep up to date with current campaigns, follow Justice and Peace Scotland on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or check out the website, www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

Thank you to the parishioners who volunteer to **clean the church** on a regular basis. More cleaners are needed to join the rota, and hopefully then there can then be four teams which would mean a once a month task taking about an hour and a half. Please contact Karen on ph.703144 if you are able to help.

A **new kitchen** will be installed in the parish hall over the next few weeks so the hall will be closed until 15th January while the installation takes place.

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.

Letter from Archbishop William Nolan, Archbishop of Glasgow and President of Justice and Peace, Scotland:

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We begin this new year praying for peace and justice. As we look around we see a world that is suffering under human mismanagement. We should not question our need to pray nor doubt the power of that prayer - for only God can help us.

The present economic crisis means that we are all having to tighten our belts financially. But though all of us are suffering we are not all suffering in the same way or to the same extent. Those who are better off may have to cut back on some of the luxuries or pleasures of life: a night out or a foreign holiday. But others are now struggling to afford food to feed their family or to pay for gas and electricity to heat their homes.

Meanwhile war in Europe continues. The prospect of peace in Ukraine is remote. Syria, Yemen, and Ethiopia are just some of the other long term conflicts where peace is a distant dream. There is no shortage of these conflicts, nor seemingly any shortage of arms to fuel them and keep them alive.

And refugees continue to arrive on our shores, despite the efforts of government to blockade the English Channel. In a world where, at over 100 million, there have never been so many forcibly displaced persons, the root causes of migration have yet to be tackled.

Nor has the climate crisis gone away. People in Africa and elsewhere already suffer from the destruction of climate change caused by our environmental pollution. Yet we continue to pollute, and our promises of compensation for loss and damage remain but fine words.

We need to pray for peace and be active in supporting those in need. Pope Francis says we need to roll up our sleeves and put our faith into practice. And many are doing just that.

It is encouraging to see so many parishes involved in supporting food banks for the hungry and in providing warm places for those shivering with cold. And it is commendable that many people pressure those in power to respect the human dignity of all in need: whether it's the poor in our own country, the refugees seeking shelter from oppression, or those in foreign lands whose climate we have destroyed. UNHCR estimates that global forced displacement has reached 103 million at mid-2022. www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics "Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters; what matters is rolling up our sleeves and putting our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one that cannot be delegated." Pope Francis's Message for the World Day of the Poor, 13th November 2022.

Prayer is needed not just to soften the hearts of those in power, but to soften our own hearts also. For when we are worried about our personal financial wellbeing it can be hard to be concerned for others. And when conflicts persist for so long compassion fatigue can set in. Despite the problems that humanity has created and that weigh us down, there is so much goodness in the world, and so many good people showing concern and compassion for those in need.

May our prayer be that God will work with us and through us to bring about the peace and justice for which we all long. With my prayers and best wishes for a peaceful and just world,

+William Nolan Archbishop of Glasgow President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Justice and Peace Commission