



**26<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.**

**First Sunday of Lent, 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.

Wednesday: 10.00a.m.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00am.

Saturday: 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass.

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

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5.30p.m.

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

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

**Stations of the Cross:** Sunday at 2.00p.m. and Thursday at 7.00p.m.

The **forty days of Lent** remind us of two Biblical events: the forty years spent in the desert by the Israelites before deliverance to the Promised Land, and Christ's entering the desert to fast for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil. The call during Lent is to focus on three things: fasting, prayer and almsgiving (giving to others). It is a time for personal reflection, renewal and reform, a time to be 'led by the Spirit' as Jesus was. Lent prepares for Easter.....we fast before we feast, we enter the desert before we are delivered.

Our **Lenten Appeal** this year focuses on families in Kabwe, Zambia and the effect hunger has on their daily lives, and their futures. Please pick up a flat pack "wee box" from the church porch and support the SCIAF Lenten campaign.

The **Parish Lenten programme** this year will provide all parishioners an opportunity to enter into the spirit of Lent, using it as an opportunity to be 'led by the Spirit' as Jesus was. Marion Pallister will deliver a talk on behalf of SCIAF in our parish hall on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the parish twice weekly during Lent.

As well as the parish Mission, Fr. Roddy Johnston will give a talk in the parish hall at 7.00p.m. on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March to which all parishioners are welcome.

**Led by the Spirit:** After last year's Synodal Process meetings, we now start on the Diocesan Discernment Process Consultation Phase 1, "What is God's will for our Diocese?" The Consultation booklet and resources are available on the dedicated website [www.ledbythespirit.rcdai.org.uk](http://www.ledbythespirit.rcdai.org.uk) Our parish meeting dates will be confirmed by next weekend.

**Mrs. Karen Wheatley** will be moving permanently to Newcastle at Easter and we extend our best wishes and blessings to her and her family. We thank Karen for her leadership role in St. Mun's primary school and for her years of commitment in the music ministry of our parish.

Our parish **three day Mission** will be celebrated in our parish from Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, given by John Pridmore. John is an ex-gangster and international bestselling author of the book, "From Gangland to Promised Land".

**The Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)** have an appeal for the Syria- Turkey earthquake disaster where you can donate through the website - there's a special donate page for Syria-Turkey: <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/475-2023-syria-turkey-earthquake-appeal> For any parishioner who doesn't have internet access and would like to donate, please hand in your contribution to Fr. Roddy or Fr. Philip and the amount will be forwarded to SCIAF.

The Special Collection next weekend will be for the **Diocesan Pastoral Fund**. This Fund supports various pastoral initiatives throughout the diocese. One example is the Led by the Spirit Discernment Programme through which we will communally discern the future of the diocese. The recent introductory meetings, led by the bishop, revealed a deep hunger within parishioners and clergy alike for the process. A second example is Safeguarding. Ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are safe is a core Christian virtue. An independent Safeguarding body (Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) has been recently established to support all the dioceses, including Argyll and the Isles. We are grateful for your financial support towards these and other initiatives.

**Online Ignatian Lenten Retreat:** The Ignatian Spirituality Centre are again running an online Lenten retreat and will provide a free App and free booklets to those who would like them. Retreat details and how to get the booklets can be seen here: <https://www.iscglasgow.co.uk/lent23.html>

**Parish walking Group:** Saturday morning at 11.00a.m. meeting in the church car-park. All welcome to come along.

**The A.W.A.Y. Group (A Well A Year):** Mainly due to Covid, the group has not been active in recent years. However, the group hopes to resume their activities today, 26<sup>th</sup> February when there will be a Soup and Sandwich lunch in the Church hall after the 11 o'clock Mass. Tickets are on sale: £4.50 per person and £1.50 for children under twelve years of age.

There will be **Tea/Coffee** in the Church hall after 11a.m. Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

### **Mission Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

We pray that our Parish Mission may be a time of grace and renewal for all.

We ask you to bless all the families in our Parish especially those who are experiencing difficulties.

Bless the old, the young, the poor, the sick, the unemployed and those in sorrow or despair.

Help us dear Lord to grow in faith and love of you and of each other.

Amen

### **Reflection from Bishop Brian on his visit to Ethiopia**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Everywhere we have gone we have been greeted with a warm welcome and kindness. Whether in cities, in the desert or in the Highlands people's friendliness and hospitality has been rich.

Ethiopians love coffee and delight in their traditional serving ceremony which we received in houses, projects and churches. Incense is burned. Grass, a symbol of life and plenty, is spread on the ground. The beans are roasted over a fire then carried to each guest to smell the aroma. The cups are freshly washed, the coffee brewed and then poured to the brim, accompanied with snacks. The ritual is simple but does take some time and effort. It made me wonder: why are we always in such a rush in the West? How often, in the course of each day, do we take simple but beautiful steps to make people feel welcome and important?

+Brian

