



**5<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.**

**Second Sunday of Lent, A.**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

Our Lady and St. Mun's, Dunoon. Tel: 01369 702125.

Email: [dunoon@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:dunoon@rcdai.org.uk) Website: [stmunsdunoon.org](http://stmunsdunoon.org)

Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Monday 10.00a.m.

Tuesday: 10.00am.

Wednesday: 10.00a.m.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00am. Feast of St. John Ogilvie.

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 3.00p.m. and Friday at 7.00p.m.

A **three day Mission** will be celebrated in our parish this week from Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March. The mission will be given by John Pridmore. John is an ex-gangster and international bestselling author of the book, "From Gangland to Promised Land". The programme for the Mission is as follows:

Mission Evenings: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 7.00p.m.

Evening 1: God's Love: The amazing story of John Pridmore.

Evening 2: God's Mercy/ personal encounter with Jesus.

Evening 3: God's Healing/Healing service.

This is a great opportunity to really get to know the love of God in a new way. One man in his seventies said at the Mission his life changed when he had a personal encounter with Jesus. A fifteen year old girl who attended a mission said for the first time in her life she not only knew God was real but that she knew that God loved her. Please come along to the Mission and support this valuable Lenten encounter.

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 date is Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30 p.m. and 7.00p.m. in the church hall. Please try to make it to one of these meetings and get involved.

Attached to the newsletter is a copy of the document, "Consultation Phase 1" which contains questions to take away and reflect on. Written submissions should be returned to the box in the church porch to be included in the parish submission.

**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.

The Special Collection this 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.

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

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

### **Bishops' Conference of Scotland Statement on the Relationship between Conscience and Politics**

Although the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion are fundamental human rights and an individual's religion and belief are protected characteristics in equalities legislation, recent events have left many citizens seriously concerned over the negative characterisation of religion in civic life. These concerns focus on two interconnected issues: disqualification from political leadership and the silencing of conscience in general. We share these concerns.

Regarding leadership, it has been suggested that Kate Forbes MSP is unsuited to leading her party and to becoming First Minister because of her religious convictions. We feel obliged to restate the well-established civic principle, that holding or expressing religious beliefs and values does not and should not debar any individual from leadership in public office.

Regarding the silencing of conscience in general, we are particularly troubled by the increasing prevalence of political parties removing the right of conscience from their parliamentarians on votes involving contentious moral issues. Such actions inhibit freedom and are insidiously conformist in nature. They compromise open and honest debate and risk marginalising minority groups.

In his address to parliamentarians and civic leaders in Westminster Hall in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI lamented the "marginalisation" of religion which he described as a worrying sign of "a failure to appreciate" what he described as "the legitimate role of religion in the public square." He went on to offer a positive prospectus where "the Church and the public authorities can work together for the good of citizens" through the promotion of "dialogue and respect at every level".

We echo these sentiments and urge our civic leaders to recognise the dignity of the human person and the right of everyone to participate without discrimination in civic society according to their beliefs and conscience; without this guarantee our society cannot be free nor fair.