



30th April, 2023.

Fourth Sunday of Easter, A.

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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

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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Tuesday: 11.00am. Requiem Mass for Hugh Bain.

Wednesday: 10.00a.m. St. Philip and St. James.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00a.m.

Saturday 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass.

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

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday after Mass.

Rosary: After Thursday morning Mass in our Lady's chapel.

Today, **Good Shepherd Sunday**, we focus our prayer on how pastoral care of each other can continue into the future. The challenge is for all parishioners to somehow be shepherds to one another. This involves the effort to learn the names of individuals who join in worship with us, so as to be able to greet them by name and make them really welcome.

The Good Shepherd knows each of us personally, and calls us each by name. The more we build a sense of belonging and of trust in the parish, the better we can identify the ones who would be good shepherds. We might then quietly approach them to take on the kind of leadership that our Church needs for today.

As we receive this Good Shepherd in Holy Communion, we trust him to lead us to that living water and bless us with a closer relationship with him personally, and with others in his name.

Please pray for Ava and Emma who will make their **First Holy Communion** on Sunday, 14th May during the 11.00a.m. Mass in our parish. We pray that God may continue to bless them on their journey of faith.

The Pastoral Council of the parish has been dormant for a while due to Covid, but it will resume again with a meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday, 31st May at 7.00p.m. The present members of the Parish Council are: Margaret Reilly Wood, Ruth McManus, Isabel Goodfellow, Jim Maclean, Helen Carty, Phil Breslin.

The primary purpose and responsibility of the Council is to guide and determine the direction of the parish by providing leadership, leading pastoral planning, initiating and directing policies which flow out of the parish's mission. Council members care about parish life in other communities of the Diocese, share in the concerns of the Church universal, and strive to bring the Gospel message to all people and places within the parish. Furthermore, to work co-operatively with the Parish Priest and parishioners in all areas of parish life to assist the entire parish community to achieve the mission of the Church in the local community. The Council is accountable to the parish community for its work and will give high priority to ensuring regular communication with the parish via the parish bulletin.

As part of the diocesan **Led by the Spirit** process, two meetings were held in the parish hall on 24th March. Summaries of the meetings are available at the back of the church.

A warm welcome into the church to **Grace Olivia Gallacher** who was baptised on Friday evening. May God continue to bless the wee one and her parents.

As part of **St. Mun's Primary School** Laudato Si programme, the children are going to make a mural of caring for our planet. They will use recycled bottle tops to make the mural. Please hand in any bottle tops to the collection point in the school reception.

A request has come in for assistance with **baby clothes and a cot**. If any parishioner is able to help in this regard, please contact Fr. Roddy.

If you have any old or **spoiled laptops or phones** lying around at home, Fr. Philip can repair them and donate them to people back in Africa. Please see the poster at the back of the church and contact Fr. Philip if you are able to help.

Dunoon Foodbank serves the Cowal community by providing food to those in financial distress. They also run a cafe serving hot food on a Thursday afternoon and a breakfast club on a Friday morning. They are situated at 22 Kirk Street and can be contacted on 07776015956. For those who are unable to donate at the Foodbank, a box is based at the back of the church. The generosity of people enables staff at the Foodbank to give more than the basic requirements which is much appreciated by the people they help.

Parish walking Group: Saturday morning at 11.00a.m. meeting in the church car-park. All welcome to come along and meet fellow parishioners and have tea/coffee/cake after the walk.

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

Reflection:

“Why don’t we preach hellfire anymore? That’s a question asked frequently today by a lot of sincere religious people who worry that too many churches and too many priests and ministers have gone soft on sin and are over-generous in speaking about God’s mercy.

So why not preach fear? Because it’s wrong, pure and simple. Brainwashing and physical intimidation are also effective, but fear is not the proper fuel for love. You don’t enter a love relationship because you feel afraid or threatened. You enter a love relationship because you feel drawn there by love.

More importantly, preaching divine threat dishonours the God in whom we believe. The God whom Jesus incarnates and reveals is not a God who puts sincere, good-hearted people into hell against their will, on the basis of some human or moral lapse which in our moral or religious categories we deem to be a mortal sin.

What kind of God would underwrite this kind of a belief? What kind of God would not give sincere people a second chance, a third one, and seventy-seven times seven more chances if they remain sincere?

A healthy theology of God demands that we stop teaching that hell can be a nasty surprise waiting for an essentially good person. The God we believe in as Christians is infinite understanding, infinite compassion, and infinite forgiveness. God’s love surpasses our own and if we, in our better moments, can see the goodness of a human heart despite its lapses and weaknesses, how much more so will God do this. We’ve nothing to fear from God”. (Richard Rohr).