



17th September, 2023.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 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: 10am.

Wednesday: 10am Korean martyrs

Thursday: 10am. Feast of St. Matthew

Friday: 10am.

Saturday 6pm. Vigil Mass.

Sunday: 9am. and 11am.

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday after Mass.

Rosary: After Thursday Eucharistic service in our Lady's chapel.

A big issue for any community: how often should you forgive a wrongdoer? Peter offers a generous suggestion – seven times? Peter must have thought he was doing well, but he's still wrong! How wrong is shown when Jesus talks of God's limitless forgiveness. Jesus tells of someone who was released from a debt of ten thousand talents: about one hundred and fifty thousand years wages! How much more then was this person obliged to release his brother from a smaller debt!?

Last weekends second collection realised £400. Thanks to parishioners for their generosity. The collection will help with the costs incurred in ensuring every parish in the diocese is served by a priest.

Led By The Spirit: Phase Two concerns consultation on our Diocesan Resources. By visiting led-bythespirit.org.uk or through the Diocesan website rcdai.org.uk you can learn much about our Diocesan resources eg. Sunday Mass numbers and the financial status of every single parish in the Diocese over the past five years. It is a very transparent portrayal of our Diocesan resources.

Help is required with the teas/coffees in the Parish Hall after Sunday, 11am Masses. If any Parishioner would like to volunteer to help, on a rota basis, please contact either Harry or Margaret Revie.

If any Parishioner is able to help at **11am Sunday Mass** to welcome people, help give out the Bulletin and from time to time, help with the Collection, please contact Jim MacLean.

Parish walking Group: Saturday morning at 11am 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.

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year.

This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer.

We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home.

"Let Justice and Peace Flow" is theme and invitation of this year's Season of Creation. In his message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2023, Pope Francis encourages us to "live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again."

"There was once a group of women studying the book of Malachi in the Old Testament. As they were studying chapter three, they came across verse three, which says: "God will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women, and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out about the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible study.

That week this woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot – then she thought again about the verse, that God sits as a refiner and purifier of silver. She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered "Yes", and explained that he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be damaged.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy. When I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat, know that God is with you....you are not on your own. You are formed in God's image."

(Adapted.....Shared from Holy Family Parish, Port Glasgow).