



26th November, 2023.

Solemnity of Christ the King, 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 Website: stmunsdunoon.org

Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week:

Tuesday: 10am.

Wednesday: 10am.

Thursday: 10am. Solemnity of St. Andrew.

Friday: 10am.

Saturday: 6pm. Vigil Mass.

Sunday: 9am. and 11am.

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30pm.

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday after Mass.

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

Next weekend we have our annual **Second Collection** to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education service through the Bishops conference of Scotland. Forming our young people in the Faith is very important to us. The Scottish Catholic Education Service (SCES) is the Church's official Agency for supporting the education of our youth in Scotland. SCES directly supports our diocesan Catholic Primary Schools. We have no Catholic High Schools but SCES successfully works with Local Authorities and local communities to improve the quality of what is offered to our young people.

Fr. Ronald Campbell, parish priest of Skye, will give an Advent talk entitled, "Discovering hope through prayer" in the parish hall on Wednesday, 6th December at 7pm. Come along and support Fr. Ronald. You will be encouraged by his talk.

The Staff and pupils of **St. Mun's primary school** thank parishioners for attending Mass in the school and for joining them for tea/coffee after Mass. Should any parishioners have any spare teapots that they would like to donate to the school, they would be gratefully received.

The **Craft group** are holding a craft fair on Saturday 2nd December 10-12 am in the parish hall. Admission £3, children free teas and coffees (included in admission), crafts, cake and candy, tombola and bottle stall. Come along and enjoy the fun, proceeds will be divided between the Chest, Heart and Stroke club and parish funds.

Our Lady & St Mun's singers:

"On our lead up to Christmas we will be rehearsing from 7pm on the following Tuesday evenings:-14th Nov, 28th Nov, 12th Dec and 19th Dec. We are always happy to welcome more singers.

So, come along, have a good sing, a wee cuppa in a lovely social environment".

'Let us rejoice in the Lord, with songs let us praise him' Psalm 99

Cowal Fiddle Workshop: Christmas concert on Friday 8th December at 7.30pm in St. Mun's Hall. Tickets £6 at the door. Refreshments and Raffle.

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.

Teas/Coffee are available in the Church hall after 11a.m. Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

Bishops' Conference of Scotland – Office for Care of Creation

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will run from Nov 30th – Dec 12th in the United Arab Emirates. Archbishop Nolan, Bishop President of the National Justice and Peace Commission has issued the following statement concerning 'Loss and Damages': "At COP26 in Glasgow, one of the biggest disappointments was the failure to agree a fund for Loss and Damages. Countries which are most vulnerable to climate change and yet the least responsible, need financial support from industrialised countries who were, and continue to be, responsible for gas emissions. A Dialogue was set-up to continue the conversation. At COP27 in Egypt no conclusion was brought to this dialogue. Now is the moment for world leaders to take responsibility for the damage caused by climate change especially affecting the smallest and most vulnerable countries. COP28 in the United Arab Emirates should not be mere talk but take decisive action to create a robust fund to aid those struggling with climate change that threatens their very existence. May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame. (Laudate Deum 60) I pray that the hearts and consciences of all participants will be sensitive and open to the cries of the poor and weak and I entrust them to the intercession of St Andrew, our patron saint, on whose feast day COP28 will begin in Dubai."

The Office for Care of Creation can provide advice and resources for parishes and groups interested in responding to the Pope's call to tackle the climate crisis and care for our common home. Find out more at: www.bcos.org.uk

Pause for Thought

The parish priest of a small town arrived at the church encouraged and motivated to celebrate another evening Mass, but the hour passed and the town did not come. After fifteen minutes delay, three children entered, after twenty minutes two young people entered. So the priest decided to start the Mass with the five people. Over the course of Mass, a couple came in who sat on the last benches of the church.

When the priest preached and explained the Gospel, another half-dirty person came in with a rope in his hand. Disappointed and not understanding the cause of the weak involvement of the faithful, the priest celebrated Mass with love and preached with enthusiasm and zeal.

On his way back home he was robbed and beaten by two thieves who stole his folder where his Bible and other valued belongings were. Arriving at the parish house and bandaging his wounds, he described that day as: The saddest day of my life, a failure of my ministry, and the most unfruitful day of my ministry; but... never mind, I do everything with God and for God.

After five years, the priest decided to share this story with parishioners at church. When he was finished telling the story, a couple in that parish stopped him and said, "Father, the couple in the story that sat at the back was us. We were on the brink of separation because of several problems and disagreements in our home. That night we finally decided to divorce, but first we decided to come to church one last time as a couple and then each one would follow their path. Meanwhile, we left the thought of divorce aside after listening to your homily that same night. As a result, today we are here with our home and family restored".

As the couple spoke, one of the most successful entrepreneurs who helped in the livelihoods of people of that church saluted, asking to speak. And giving him the opportunity, the entrepreneur said, "Father, I am the person who came in half dirty with a rope in my hand. I was on the verge of bankruptcy, lost in drugs, my wife and my kids had left home on account of my behaviour. That night I tried to kill myself but the rope broke so I went out to buy another one. When I got on my way, I saw the church open, I decided to come in even though I was really dirty and had a rope in my hand. That night, your homily pierced my heart and I walked out of here a changed person. Today I'm off the drugs, my family came home and I became a successful businessman".

At the gate of the sacristy entrance, the Deacon shouted, "Father, I was one of those thieves that stole your belongings. The other one died that same night while we were doing the second robbery. In his briefcase, there was a Bible. I read it every time I woke up in the morning. After all this reading, I decided to apply it to my life and participate in this church."

The priest was shocked and started crying along with the faithful. After all, the night he regarded as a night of failure was the most fruitful of his ministry.