



3rd December, 2023.

First Sunday of Advent, B

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.

Thursday: 10am. St. Ambrose

Friday: 10am. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8 — Isaiah regrets that God's people stray, but affirms that God is the potter, and we are all the work of his hand.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 — Paul thanks God for the graces received by the Christians in Corinth, and prays that they will remain steady.

Mark 13:33-37 — Be on your guard, says Jesus, because the Master may come unexpectedly.

The **Advent season** begins this weekend. Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, "Letters from the Desert". He wrote, "Be patient, learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God". The Advent season is about learning to wait. It is about not opening the Christmas gift too early. A feast can only be celebrated properly after there has been fasting. A race can only be run well after proper training. Christmas can only be celebrated after a fruitful Advent.

This 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 of this week, 6th December at 7pm. Come along and support Fr. Ronald. You will be encouraged by his talk.

A warm welcome into the church to **Brodie Robert Kennedy MacDonald** who was baptised last Sunday afternoon. May God bless the wee one and his parents on their faith journey.

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

SCIAF Real Gifts. As well as continuing to provide aid for those most in need SCIAF has launched its 'Real Gifts' campaign. Have a look on their website for Christmas gifts that provide life changing benefits to others. <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/>

The Good Old Days: "Pity the poor children of today, with their calendars stuffed with chocolates, never to know the thrill of opening a small cardboard door and discovering behind it a picture of a bell". (Brian Bilson).

"If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining". (Anon).