



10th December, 2023.

Second 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. Communion service

Wednesday: 9.00am. St. Lucy

Thursday: 10am. St. John of the Cross

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.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11— Isaiah proclaims joyfully that God is coming with power, to gather us, like a shepherd.
2 Peter 3:8-14 — According to St Peter, everything is coming to an end, so we must live good lives while we wait.

Mark 1:1-8 — Mark's Gospel begins with a message of repentance, preached by John the Baptist.

The second Sunday of Advent is celebrated this weekend. 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.

The **Second Collection** last weekend to support the work of the Scottish Catholic Education service through the Bishops conference of Scotland raised £365. That you. 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.

There was a great turnout from the parish for **Fr. Ronald's Advent talk** held in the parish hall on Wednesday evening. Such was the turnout that more chairs had to be arranged! Thank you to the parishioners who came along on such a cold night and to those who organised the teas. Fr. Roddy will reciprocate Fr. Ronald's visit and will be going to Skye on Sunday after Mass for a Penitential service and will return to the parish on Tuesday.

St. Mun's Primary School pupils will perform their Nativity Play, "The Twinkly Nativity" on Wednesday of this week, 13th December at 10.00a.m. in the School Hall. All welcome.

Fr. Gerry MacNellis from Gourrock will be in the parish on Thursday, 21st December for the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession between 6pm and 7pm.

Our Lady & St Mun's singers:

"On our lead up to Christmas we will be rehearsing from 7pm on the following Tuesday evenings:- 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

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/>

Reflection:

“It is said that while there is life there is hope. This has an even deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope there is life. Hope is strength. Hope sheds light into despairing hearts. It inspires the will to live. It is the doctor’s most powerful ally. It is a shield against defeat and failure. It revives ideals and renews dreams. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible. Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.” (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).