



17th December, 2023.

Third 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: 10.am. Mass in St. Mun's Primary School.

Thursday: 10am.

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 61:1-2, 10-11 — Isaiah's message forms the basis for the Magnificat, which follows it as today's Responsorial Psalm.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 — We have plenty to be happy about, says St Paul: God has called us. God will not fail us.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 — John the Baptist was the focus of the Gospel last Sunday, and again today. This time his actions are described by St John.

The **Third Sunday of Advent** is celebrated this weekend. John the Baptist identifies himself as who he is not. He is not Elijah, not the Christ, not the prophet, not the light. His own identity is much less important to him as the message he carries, and the work he must do. He points to Christ through his mission, ministry and martyrdom. We are challenged to point to Christ in all we do, allowing him to live in us and shine through us. Like John, we must decrease, Christ must increase.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE:

“Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

During the recent Synod of Bishops in Rome two consistently expressed themes were the necessity of listening to people and also of accompanying them, including those who have been traumatised by any kind of difficult or confusing experiences. When she acts in this way the Church continues the ministry of Jesus who always listened and accompanied.

There are many reasons why people can be traumatised. One of them is having been wounded by abuse. The Synod recognised that survivors of abuse, and their families, need to be listened to and accompanied. The Church has not always excelled in listening and accompanying. However, we are improving - guided, I believe, by the Holy Spirit.

In our Diocese we want to listen and accompany survivors which is why all our priests and deacons, as well as several lay people, received trauma awareness training this year. Understanding the effects of trauma helps us to offer the appropriate pastoral support.

I am grateful to all our clergy and lay faithful who listen to and accompany those who are suffering among us”.

Yours in Christ,

Right Reverend Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

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

Ruth McManus will retire from making teas/coffees in the church hall at the end of this year after almost twenty-five years of service and we thank Ruth for her many years of commitment. The ministry of hospitality in the church hall is an invaluable one and so many people, visitors and parishioners alike, benefit from coming together after 11am Sunday Mass. In order for the provision of teas/coffees after Sunday 11.00a.m. Mass to continue in the hall after the new year, more volunteers are desperately needed. If any parishioner would like to volunteer to help, on a rota basis, please contact either Fr. Roddy or Jim MacLean.

Our Lady & St Mun's singers:

“On our lead up to Christmas we will be rehearsing from 7pm 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.

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/>

Could all **church cleaners** who are available please meet for a pre Christmas church clean on Wednesday 20th December at 7pm followed by a cup of tea/coffee and a mince pie in the parish house. Thank you to the church cleaners who work quietly behind the scenes throughout the year.

Reflection:

“For years I was held in a tiny cell. My only human contact was with my torturers. For two and a half of those years I did not experience the glance of a human face or see a green leaf. My only company was the cockroaches and mice. The only daylight that entered my cell was through a small opening at the top of one wall. For eight months I had my hands and feet tied. On Christmas Eve, the door to my cell opened, and the guard tossed in a crumpled piece of paper. I moved as best I could to pick up the paper. It said simply, “Constantina, do not be discouraged, we know you are alive”. It was signed ‘Monica’ and had the Amnesty International candle on it. These words saved my life and my sanity. Eight months later I was set free”.

(Constantina Coronel, released prisoner from Uruguay. *Amnesty International Newsletter*, 1996).