



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, 2024.

Feast of The Holy Family, B

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week:

Tuesday: 11.00am. Requiem Mass for Hugh Dominick.

Wednesday: 10.00am.

3.00pm Funeral Service in Greenock Crematorium for Edward Kitson.

Thursday: 11.30am. Requiem Mass for George Graham.

Friday: 10.00am.

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 60:1-6 — Isaiah refers to foreign people coming to worship the God of Israel, just as the three wise men did.

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6 — Paul talks about the meaning of the feast: in Jesus, salvation is made available to Jews and pagans alike.

Matthew 2:1-12 — The events celebrated on the Epiphany are described in the Gospel.

Today's **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord** is a revolutionary feast. Christ is revealed as the Saviour, not of a select group of people, but of all peoples. Jesus broke down the great barrier that existed between Jews and Gentiles. The word epiphany means a revelation, or literally "drawing back the veil." Like the Magi (Kings, wise men), on this feast we have come to worship the Christ-child. And again, like the Magi, we have to go back to our homes and get on with our ordinary lives. But hopefully we will see those lives differently. In the divine child, we see our own divinity.

A special collection for the work of the **Justice and Peace Commission** will be taken up next weekend. For more issues of social justice, and to keep up to date with current campaigns, follow Justice and Peace Scotland on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or check out the website, www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

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, another two 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.

A sheet has been placed at the back of the church for parishioner to sign if they would like to carry up the **Offertory gifts** at the 9.00a.m. Sunday Mass. This will give everyone the chance to "have their turn".

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.

Reflection

“When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m not for a moment expecting this to occur, for that is not possible. A year must be all things. Happiness must come and go, like the tides and the winds, just as sadness, and all the emotions in between. When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m really wishing you a baseline of peace, of gratitude. Because if you can sit with these things, for the most part, happiness will thrive, when it does arrive, and sadness will know its place in the mix. If you can nourish these things, daily, you will also grow in hope, for it flourishes in such soil. And hope is the key to this enigmatic state of ‘happiness’ we seek. When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m really wishing you more happy days, than sad days, more joy than misery, more laughter than tears... and the wisdom to accept, that they all belong. Happy new year, my friends” .

Donna Ashworth

Letter from Archbishop William Nolan, President of Justice and peace Commission, Scotland.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Astronauts share a unique experience, for they have been able to go into outer space and look down in awe and see the beauty of the earth. The astronauts see the earth as God gave it to us, one earth, one world. But for us, when we look at our maps, we see a world that is divided by lines, indicating the borders and the barriers that partition this one world into territories and countries. We put up walls, we erect fences of barbed wire and we say to our fellow human beings “this is my land, this land and its resources are not yours but mine”. But God has given this one world to all of humanity, so that all human beings can live and flourish and grow, sharing its resources. We have, of course, got to manage creation, and organise it. We cannot have chaos. But can we say to someone living where it is arid and barren, that they have no right to come here where the soil is good and the food is plentiful, because this is my territory? Do migrants and refugees not have God-given rights to move to a better life? And the borders we create are often the cause of friction. How many wars are fought over disputed territory, both sides claiming it as their land? How much conflict as people seek to claim for their own the oil, the gas or the mineral wealth that lies under the surface? How many countries grow wealthy, keeping for themselves the riches of the earth and see no obligation to share with the poor? We are a long way from living in a world where all benefit from the gift of creation given by God to all. We are a long way from peace when countries continue to fight for what they claim is theirs. We are a long way from a united world where we work together for the good of all humanity. We are not the owners of God’s earth, we are its stewards. The astronauts in space see a world that is beautiful and so it is. It is also rich and plentiful, with resources given to us by God for the good of everyone. Poverty will only disappear when the earth’s resources are fairly shared. Only when we act as stewards and not as owners of creation will there be peace and justice on earth. May Jesus the Prince of Peace inspire us to work for justice and so establish a peaceful world.

+William Nolan, Bishop President of Justice and Peace Scotland

