



Sixth Sunday of the Year B, 2024

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: 10.00am.

Wednesday: 10.00am. and 7.00p.m. Ash Wednesday. Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

Thursday: 10.00am.

Friday: 10.00am.

Saturday: 6.00pm. Vigil Mass.

Sunday: 9.00am. and 11.00am.

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:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 — Jesus heals a leper in today's Gospel, and tells the cured man to show himself to the priest. The reason he did this is explained by the first reading, which describes how lepers were to be treated.

I Corinthians 10:31 to 11:1 — Paul offers himself as a model disciple, and preaches tolerance of non-Christians.

Mark 1:40-45 — Jesus feels sorry for a leper and heals him, even though it brings unwanted attention on himself.

Jesus is alone in an unknown village. A leper does the unthinkable, and illegal in approaching Jesus, saying "If you want to, you can cure me". Jesus replies "Of course I want to". Then he does the unthinkable: he touches the leper. Under the law, Jesus now takes on the condition of the leper, who is now clean. This is an indication of what Jesus' death will mean: changing places with humanity!

The beautiful season of **Lent** begins this week with **Ash Wednesday**. The forty days of Lent remind us of two Biblical events: the forty years spent in the desert by the Israelites before deliverance to the Promised Land, and Christ's entering the desert to fast for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil. The call during Lent is to focus on three things: fasting, prayer and almsgiving (giving to others). It is a time for personal reflection, renewal and reform, a time to be 'led by the Spirit' as Jesus was. Lent prepares for Easter....we fast before we feast, we enter the desert before we are delivered. People often ask what determines the date of Easter. The Council of Nicaea, in 325 A.D. determined that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of Spring. To determine the beginning of Lent, count back six Sundays before Easter. The Wednesday before the first of these Sundays is Ash Wednesday.

In preparation for the Holy Year of 2025, **Pope Francis has dedicated 2024 as a Year of prayer**. The recent Synod of Bishops reflected on how God personally calls us and central to that is a personal relationship, built on listening. The Ignatian Spirituality Centre has produced a book entitled "Through Lent with Pope Francis" – a Retreat for Lent based on the reflections of Pope Francis since his election in 2013. Copies of this book will be available in the church porch this week for a donation. You may follow the retreat online at the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow. www.onlineprayer.net

The annual **Second Collection for the Diocesan Pastoral** Fund will take place next weekend. This Fund supports various pastoral initiatives throughout the diocese including safeguarding and developing youth ministry. We are grateful for your financial support towards these and other initiatives. Last year the Second Collection raised £4,723 which was an increase of 162% over the previous year collection of £1,801. Thank you.

Our local **World day of Prayer service this year will be held in St. Mun's of Friday, 1st March at 2.30p.m.** All welcome. Every year on (or near) the first Friday in March, Christians around the world of all denominations and Church groups and all ages gather in small groups and large congregations using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee. A group of ecumenical Palestinian Christian women have worked collectively the last four years to pray and reflect on the theme and they invite us to join them as they pray for peace, justice, love and unity.

On the **St. Mun's Primary school noticeboard** at the back of the church, there are a list of dates showing forthcoming events.

There will be a **meeting for parents** whose children are due to receive the Sacraments of The Eucharist (Primary 4) and Confirmation (Primary 7) this year. The meeting for Confirmations will be in the church hall on Wednesday, 21st February at 6.30pm. The meeting for First Holy Communions will be in the church hall on Wednesday, 28th February at 6.30pm.

St Mun's Singers rehearsals: The choir will be rehearsing in the lead up to Lent and Easter on the following dates:- 13th & 27th February, 12th and 26th March with the possibility of an extra one if needed. The rehearsals will take place on Tuesdays at 7pm in the parish hall. Looking forward to seeing as many as possible for a good sing, lovely company with the much appreciated and needed (after all the singing!) cuppa and blether.

'I will sing to the Lord all my life, make music to my God while I live.' Ps 103.

Congratulations to Grace and Danny Bonnar who celebrate their **Diamond Wedding anniversary** this weekend. May God continue to bless them.

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 11am. Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

Reflection:

"Many of us are afraid to touch other people: we give a few pennies to a beggar, but make sure there is no contact between us, not even eye-contact. Jesus didn't stand off or keep his distance. he wasn't afraid to touch others. He touched lepers, sinners, sick people, and even the dead. Physical contact is precisely what gives people, especially sick and wounded people a sense of warmth and joy. By the very act of touching another person, we accept that person exactly as he or she is. Lord, give us a warm heart and kind hands".

(Fr. Flor McCarthy,SDB).