



Fifth Sunday of Lent B, 2024

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: 10.00am. Solemnity of St. Joseph.

Wednesday: 6.30pm. Chrism Mass in St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

Thursday: 10.00am. Communion service.

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.

Stations of the Cross: Sunday at 2.00p.m. and Tuesday at 9.30a.m.

Introduction to the Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 — A promise of a new covenant, a 'new deal' between God and all people, built on love and forgiveness.

Hebrews 5:7-9 — Jesus is the perfect model for us to imitate, because he shows us what obedience is all about.

John 12:20-30 — Jesus explains that he does God's will always, even by dying. But in his death, his glory is seen.

Please pray for **Lindsay McKenna** who has been receiving instruction in preparation for being received into the church this Easter. May the Lord continue to bless her in her faith journey.

The annual **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated in St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Wednesday, 20th March at 6.30p.m. Please sign your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you would like a seat on the minibus which will depart from the church car park at 4.30pm prompt. The Holy Oils which will be used for the celebration of the Sacraments in our parishes this year will be blessed during the Chrism Mass. Our priests will also renew their commitment to serving God and you. It is always a beautiful, faith filled occasion.

The special collection held last weekend for the work of the Scottish Catholic Aid Fund (SCIAF) raised £645. Thank you. Our **Lenten Appeal** focuses on the people of Rwanda. We pray for healing and hope for communities in Rwanda.

A **Parish Retreat** open to all parishioners will be held in the Schoenstatt Centre, Kentenich way, Campsie Glen, Glasgow, G66 7AT between Tuesday, 21st May and Thursday, 23rd May. Nestled in seventeen secluded acres at the foot of the Campsie Fells around sixteen kilometres north of Glasgow, Schoenstatt has become for many a haven of peace and refuge from the bustle and clamour of the outside world, a true sanctuary and simple retreat.

Ten places are available for our group. The Retreat will include two nights full board: Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.....bring your own packed lunch. A meeting room will be available for the duration and teas and coffees: £195 per person.

The emphasis of the Retreat is "going off to a quiet place for prayer, reflection, rest, relaxation". The Retreat will be minimal rather than a packed programme. It would benefit especially those who were keen to

get away to catch up on rest, reflection and walking. Please sign your name on the sheet provided in the church porch if you intend to go on the Retreat. A meeting for those who sign up will be held at a later stage to plan things further.

Fr. Gerry McNellis from St. Ninian's parish in Gourrock will hear confessions in the parish on Thursday, 21st March between 6.00pm and 7.00pm. Please us this as an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter.

Gift Aid Donations: Gift Aid is extremely important to the Church. Last year our parish received £8174.50 back from HMRC for our funds because of donations paid through the scheme. Basically, Gift Aid is a way of increasing the donations you make to the Church if you are a UK tax payer. If you are signed up to the scheme, the Inland Revenue pays the parish an additional 25p for every £1 you donate. To participate in the scheme you must be a UK Taxpayer and complete and sign a mandate confirming that you wish to use the Gift Aid Scheme. You need to decide on a method of donating – pre-numbered envelopes, standing order or cheque. Anyone wishing to join the scheme should leave their name and contact details with Fr. Roddy. Mrs. Elaine Brown, who looks after the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, will contact them to arrange signing of mandate etc.

From Fr. Ronald Campbell, Diocesan R.E Advisor, “The University of Glasgow have been running a series of seminars titled 'Theology Thursdays'. ‘Theology Thursdays’ is a programme of seminars aimed at non-experts and beginners. Each seminar has a particular theological focus, lasts for one hour and is taught by an expert in the field.

At a recent education meeting, I asked if these seminars could be made available online and the University have kindly recorded each seminar which you'll find via the link below. Seminars yet to take place will be uploaded shortly after they have happened.

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/standrewsfoundation/theologythursday/>

The University have suggested that the recordings could be used with parish groups or in schools. Some groups have paused the recording at various points to work in discussion throughout viewing.

If this is something that you find useful, please let me know as the University are looking for feedback and I can make similar requests in the future”.

St Mun's Singers rehearsals: The choir will be rehearsing in the lead up to Easter on the following dates:- 17th March after 11a.m. Mass and Tuesday, 19th and Tuesday, 26th at 7.00p.m. The rehearsals will take place 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.

Parish Quiz Night: Friday, 19th April at 7.30pm until 10.30pm in Parish Hall. Prizes, Raffle, nibbles, music. Bring your own bottle. Entry: £10 for a Table of Four (if you have a team) or Single Entry: £2.50 (and we'll find you a table to join in with). Tickets on sale after all weekend Masses as from Saturday Vigil Mass, 23rd March onwards. Come and test your quizzing knowledge, have some fun and support the parish fundraising efforts.

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:

“Each of us is like a grain of wheat planted by God. Just as a grain of wheat must die so as to produce a harvest, so we must die to self in order to bear the fruits of love. The dying to self is a gradual process and happens in little ways. Every act of humility involves dying to pride. Every act of courage involved dying to cowardice. Every act of kindness involves dying to cruelty. Every act of love involves dying to selfishness. Thus the false self dies, and the true self, made in God's image, is born and nurtured. It is by giving that we receive; it is by forgiving that we are forgiven; it is by dying that we are born to eternal life”.
(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).