



**Easter Sunday B, 2024**

**31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

Our Lady and St. Mun's, Dunoon. Tel: 01369 702125.

Email: [dunoon@rcdai.org.uk](mailto:dunoon@rcdai.org.uk) Website: [stmunsdunoon.org](http://stmunsdunoon.org)

Charity registration number - SC002876

### **Masses during the Week**

Tuesday: 10.00am. Communion Service.

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Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00a.m.

Saturday 6.30p.m. Vigil.

Sunday: 9.00a.m. and 11.00a.m.

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5.30p.m.

**Stations of the Cross:** Wednesday at 7.00p.m. and Friday at 7.00p.m.

### **Introduction to the Scripture Readings:**

*Acts 10:34, 37-43* — Peter sums up the whole Paschal Mystery – the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

*Colossians 3:1-4* — We too can share the glory of Christ.

*John 20:1-9* — In John's description of the resurrection, Mary Magdalene is the first to witness the empty tomb.

A **Happy and Holy Easter** to all parishioners, visitors and friends! Today we celebrate the very heart of the Christian faith, the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thank you** to all those who worked hard in preparing the church for Easter and to all who took an active part in the Holy Week liturgies: musicians, readers, servers, passkeepers, flower arrangers, church cleaners, and all who contribute in any way to the life of the Parish throughout the year. Your support is much appreciated.

Please continue to pray for **Lindsay McKenna** who was received into the church during the Easter Vigil Mass. May God continue to bless her in her faith journey.

The **Requiem Mass** for our brother Fr. Roddy Johnston will be celebrated in St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Wednesday of this week, 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 10.00a.m. A prayer Vigil will take place at 6.30p.m. on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Fr Roddy's funeral will be livestreamed and the link publicised on our diocesan Website and parish Facebook page. Fr Roddy will be interred at the Glen Nevis Cemetery, Fort William at 1pm.

A **Parish Retreat** open to all parishioners will be held in the Schoenstatt Centre, Kentenich way, Campsie Glen, Glasgow, G66 7AT between Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May and Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.

**Parish Quiz Night:** Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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:

As we go through life, we all experience little deaths. We get a foretaste of death when we live in bitterness, loneliness, sadness and despair. In times like these the world closes in on us, and we seem to have one foot in the grave. But we also experience little resurrections, when we know love, acceptance and forgiveness; when we open our hearts to others and to life and the world opens up and we emerge from the tomb. Lord, may the splendour of your resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and enable us to walk in radiant hope towards the kingdom where there are no more shattered hopes or broken dreams. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).

“Success is getting what you want, happiness is liking what you get”. (Anon).

#### Tribute to Fr. Roddy Johnston

“Fr. Roddy Johnston was given “in great measure” the gift of wonder and awe. He often spoke about the view he had from St. John’s parish house in Caol, Lochaber, onto Ben Nevis. He was always appreciative of that and never took it for granted. It’s very apt that Roddy will be laid to rest in Glen Nevis cemetery in the shadow of Ben Nevis.

Many people have shared how Roddy helped them in their time of need. The word “no” was not in his vocabulary....He would take on the jobs that nobody else wanted to do and he would go to the meetings that nobody else wanted to go to. He was always willing to reach out to others. He saw the good in people and wasn’t one to join in gossip about another person.

Pope Francis, in a homily to Cardinals in 2013, said, “Jesus is not so much knocking at the door asking to come in....as trapped in the sacristy knocking to be let out, to the peripheries”. Fr. Roddy Johnston went to the peripheries, he was a compassionate shepherd.

Among other things, a talented guitarist, cook, wildlife painter, raconteur. He had a great love for and knowledge of the scriptures and a special love of the Old Testament. He was blessed with the gift of being able to communicate the scriptures with others in a way they could understand. He brought the scriptures alive.

Fr. Roddy was a humble, self-effacing and shy man and there was perhaps a deep and private part of Fr. Roddy Johnston that very few people knew. He loved to head off to a quiet place to pray and to reflect. Through his deep faith, Roddy was given the courage and the grace to embrace his terminal illness with dignity.

May God give courage and strength to his family, parishioners, fellow priests and all his friends.

Rest in peace Roddy”.