



**First Sunday of Advent, 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

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Charity registration number - SC002876

## Masses during the Week

Tuesday: 10am Communion Service.

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 10am

Friday: 10 am

Saturday: 6pm Vigil.

Sunday: 9am and 11am

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5.30pm

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday after morning Mass.

**Rosary:** After Mass on Thursday morning.

## Scripture Readings:

*Jeremiah 33:14-16* Jeremiah's prophecy looks to the day when a son of David will bring salvation. Christians see this fulfilled in Jesus.

*1 Thessalonians 3:12 to 4:2* Grow in love, says Paul; be blameless when the Lord comes in glory.

*Luke 21:25-28, 34-36* Jesus warns his followers to be vigilant.

The **Advent season** begins this weekend. Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, "Letters from the Desert". He wrote, "Be patient, learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God". The Advent season is about learning to wait. It is about not opening the Christmas gift too early. A feast can only be celebrated properly after there has been fasting. A race can only be run well after proper training. Christmas can only be celebrated after a fruitful Advent.

**Jubilee Year:** Pope Francis has given the 2025 Jubilee Year the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope". Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone. We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as pilgrims on the earth rather than masters of the world.

The Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every twenty-five years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every fifty years. The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word "yobel", which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9).

At the latest **Sunday Mass annual census**, the parish had 162 people attending Mass (Weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024): 48 people at the 6pm Vigil Mass, 49 at the 9.00am Sunday Mass and 65 at the 11.00am Sunday Mass. Three half- full churches. Do we need three weekend Masses?

We are the only church in the Diocese which has two Sunday Masses. We could do with two Masses, a Vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday evening and one Sunday Mass at 10.00am. Parishioners often remark that they only really know those who come to the Mass that they attend. Having two weekend Masses instead of three would bring more people together under one roof.

Fr. Roddy invites parishioners to reflect on this proposed change which will be brought to the next parish council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and a decision will then be made.

Fr. Roddy will be in **Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Portree, Skye** on Sunday evening and Monday for their parish Reconciliation service.

**Looking ahead:** Fr. Jarek Kwiecien, Rothesay, will be in our parish for the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm-7pm and Fr. Gerry MacNellis from Gourock will be in the parish on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December for the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession between 6pm and 7pm.

**St. Mun's Primary School** present their "Fireside Nativity" performance on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11am in St. Mun's Primary School, followed by soup and sandwiches. All welcome.

The **Craft Group** will be holding a craft fair and coffee afternoon from 12 noon til 2.00pm on Saturday, 7th December in the parish hall. Entrance £3 to include tea/ coffee and cake. Stalls will include crafts, tombola, home baking, bric a brac, and raffle. Proceeds will be divided between the Craft Group and Dunoon Chest, Heart and Stroke Club .

Come along and do some Christmas shopping and support this worthwhile cause.

**The Cowal Fiddle Workshop** and friends have their Christmas concert on Friday, 6th December at 7.30pm in St. Mun's Hall. £6 payable at door. Refreshments, raffle. All welcome.

**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/Coffees:** Available in the Church Hall after 11am Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

#### Pause for Thought

" The hill flowers fade but will bloom again next year.

But we never get back our youth.

Life is a fragile gift which we enjoy only briefly; our life is like the warming of oneself in the sun.

We live in a flash of light; before we know it, evening comes and night falls.

But the very fleetingness of life makes it all the more precious.

Lord, may your gentle and sure light guide us on the unfolding road, so that we may walk with confidence toward the light that never fades and the life that never ends."

(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).