



**Second Sunday of Advent, 2024**

**8<sup>th</sup> December, 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: 10am

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:

*Baruch 5:1-9* Baruch looks to the day when God will guide all people, bringing them joy.

*Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11* Paul encourages the people of Philippi, and tells them to prepare inwardly for the 'Day of Christ Jesus'.

*Luke 3:1-6* John the Baptist's words and actions remind the people of Isaiah's call to repentance.

**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. Jarek Kwiecien**, Rothesay, will be in our parish for the sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession on Wednesday of this week, 11<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm-7pm.

**Fr. Gerry MacNellis** from Gourrock 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.

**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

“Not long ago the trees were loaded with golden leaves. Though pretty to look at, they robbed me of the world beyond. But now that the leaves have fallen, I am able to look through the skeletal branches to the deep blue sky beyond. Teach us, Good Lord, how to take care of our material needs without neglecting our spiritual needs; how to take care of ourselves without neglecting others, and how to live joyfully in this world without losing sight of the world to come”. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB).