



Third Sunday of Advent, 2024

15th 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: 11am Requiem Mass for Martin Morenn

Thursday: 10am St. Mun's Pupils and Staff Mass in church. All parishioners welcome.

Friday: 7 pm

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:

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Zephaniah appeals for joy. The Lord is in the midst of the people, so there is no need for fear.

Philippians 4:4-7 Be happy, says Paul, and be tolerant: the Lord is very near.

Luke 3:10-18 John the Baptist announces the Good News, and declares he is not the Messiah.

“There is a clear note of joy in today’s liturgy. Joy is a blend of laughter and tears. It consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart aglow with warmth for all one’s companions on the road to life. It is looking for the happiness that comes in small packages, knowing that big packages are few and far between. It is making the most of the present, enjoying what is at hand right now. Joy is love bubbling over into life and it can co-exist with pain. Joy is the flag we fly when Christ, the Prince of Peace has taken up residence in our hearts”. (Fr. Flor McCarthy).

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 6th 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).

Fr. Gerry MacNellis from Gourock will be in the parish on Tuesday, 17th December for the sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession between 6pm and 7pm. Fr. Roddy will be in Rothesay for Confessions on Thursday evening.

St. Mun’s Primary School presented their “Fireside Nativity” performance last Wednesday. It was an excellent performance and every pupil is to be highly commended. Thanks to the staff for their patience and hard work. Our primary school might be small in numbers, but there is a joy and a spirit emanating from it. Beautiful things are happening in our school.

As usual, there will be **Midnight Mass** in the parish preceded by Carols at 11.30pm and Mass on **Christmas Day** at 10 am. Looking ahead to New Year, there will be Mass on **New Year's Eve** at 10.00pm followed by a very informal gathering in the hall for those parishioners who want to come together to bring in the New Year. Bring along a wee plate of snacks if you wish to share with others and bring along a wee bottle to share too, if you wish. To have an idea of numbers, please sign your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you intend coming along. Mass will also be celebrated on **New Years Day** (Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God) at 12 noon.

There will be an **open parish meeting** in the church hall on Wednesday, 15th January at 7pm with Fr. Roddy, Brenda Reid (acting Head of St. Mun's Primary School) and Fr. Ronald Campbell (R.E. Advisor and Director of R.E.) who will each give a short presentation with a view to looking at what we can do for our young parishioners and how we can support parents in handing on the faith to their children. This is something that should concern all parishioners. The youth are not only the future of the church but they are also the church now. All parishioners 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 Master was certainly not a stickler for etiquette and good manners but there was always a natural courtesy and grace in his dealings with others. A young disciple was once very rude to a traffic policeman as he drove the Master home one night. In self-defence he said, “I’d rather be myself and let people know exactly how I feel. Politeness is nothing but a load of hot air”. “True enough”, said the Master pleasantly, “but that’s what we have in our automobile tyres and see how it eases the bumps”.

(Anthony de Mello, S.J.)