



The Epiphany of the Lord, C.
Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace
5th January, 2025

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles
Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest
Our Lady and St. Mun's, Dunoon. Tel: 01369 702125.
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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Tuesday: 11am Requiem Mass for Eileen Rankin
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: 10am
Friday: 10am

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:

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6. The prophet cheers the exiles who returned from Babylon with a vision of a restored city. The prophecy is fulfilled in Christ and in the new Israel, the Church.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6. This reading expresses the theological meaning of today's feast: God invites Jews and Gentiles to share in the salvation brought by Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12. Three Gentiles came from a far country to pay homage to the Christ-child, while the Jewish leaders rejected him.

Today's **Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord** is a revolutionary feast. Christ is revealed as the Saviour, not of a select group of people, but of all peoples. Jesus broke down the great barrier that existed between Jews and Gentiles. The word epiphany means a revelation, or literally "drawing back the veil." Like the Magi (wise men), on this feast we have come to worship the Christ-child. And again, like the Magi, we have to go back to our homes and get on with our ordinary lives. But hopefully we will see those lives differently. In the divine child, we see our own divinity.

Jubilee Year of Hope. At the Christmas Mass in St. Peter's, Pope Francis officially launched the Jubilee Year of the Church. 'Jubilee' or 'Holy' Years of the Church occur every twenty-five years, and this Jubilee has the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This Sunday, Bishop Brian will officially inaugurate the Holy Year within the Diocese. There will be various opportunities for us to mark this special year so please do keep a look out for news from the parish and the Diocese.

The **Special Collection** this weekend on the Feast of the Epiphany, the Church's Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace, supports the Diocese's contribution to various Commissions of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland, in particular the Commission for Justice and Peace, and also the Commission for Pastoral and Social Care, which includes the National Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults, as well as the Scottish Catholic Inter-Diocesan Tribunal. All of these make a vital contribution to the Church's mission in Scotland in the areas of Justice and Peace, and your generous support will be most welcome.

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.

Parishioners and visitors sometimes ask for the Bank details of the parish so that they can set up a Standing Order. Your generosity to our Parish and the charities which we support are much appreciated. Bank details of the parish. Account Name: RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles – Dunoon Mission. Sort Code: 83-91-25
Account Number: 65627554.

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

“When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m not for a moment expecting this to occur, for that is not possible. A year must be all things. Happiness must come and go, like the tides and the winds, just as sadness, and all the emotions in between. When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m really wishing you a baseline of peace, of gratitude. Because if you can sit with these things, for the most part, happiness will thrive, when it does arrive, and sadness will know its place in the mix. If you can nourish these things, daily, you will also grow in hope, for it flourishes in such soil. And hope is the key to this enigmatic state of ‘happiness’ we seek.

When I say ‘happy new year’, I’m really wishing you more happy days, than sad days, more joy than misery, more laughter than tears... and the wisdom to accept, that they all belong. Happy new year, my friends” .

Donna Ashworth