



Fourth Sunday of Lent, C.

30th March, 2025

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Monday 10am
Tuesday: No Mass
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday: 10am
Friday: 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am
Saturday: 6pm Vigil
Sunday: 9am and 11am

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30pm

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday after morning Mass.

Rosary: After Mass on Thursday morning.

Stations of the Cross: Sunday at 3.00 pm and Friday at 9.30 am

Scripture Readings:

Joshua 5:9-12 Tells the story of the Israelites' first Passover in the Promised Land — after their years wandering in the desert.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Paul reminds us that we are a new creation, ambassadors for Christ.

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 The story of the Prodigal Son, the Loving Father and the disapproving older brother.

On Wednesday evening there will be *Lectio Divina* (which means 'divine reading' in Latin) at 7 pm in the hall. *Lectio Divina* is an ancient tradition which came from the desert monks of fourth century North Africa and was then established in European monastic communities through St Benedict. If you are not familiar with this way of prayer, and even if you are, come along and be surprised!

Today is **SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International aid Fund) Sunday**. The special collection will go towards the work of SCIAF. In Colombia, many people are impacted by ongoing violence and conflict. With your help, we can give shelter, food and water for those caught up in violence, provide safe havens for children affected by conflict, and help communities rebuild their lives, long into the future. For more information on how you can support communities in Colombia, please visit SCIAF's website sciaf.org.uk

The Diocesan **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Wednesday, 9th April at 6.30pm. Please sign your name on the sheet provided in the church porch if you would like to go on the bus, which will depart from the church car park at 4.00pm.

St. Mun's Primary school pupils will perform "The Three Trees" in preparation for Easter. Please join staff and pupils in St. Mun's Primary school on Wednesday of this week, 2nd April at 11am. The Performance will be in aid of the Lenten charities SCIAF and Dunoon Foodbank. Tea and cake will be served. All welcome.

Starting on **Sunday, 4th May**, there will be two weekend Masses in the parish instead of three. There will be a Saturday Vigil Mass at 6.00pm and a Sunday Mass at 10.00am. Not only will this bring us in line with all the parishes in the Diocese, but it will also bring more people together under one roof. New rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers will be made up.

Combined Sunday Masses – 4th May 2025 (10am): Volunteers are required to become part of a rota system for both the **Offertory Procession** and also, separately, for the **Offertory Collections** (monies) during the forthcoming 10am Mass, which begins as from Sunday, 4th May, 2025.

If any parishioner wishes to volunteer for either of these Rotas, can they please print their name and contact telephone details on the appropriate sheet, situated in the Church Porch over the coming four weeks. If enough parishioners come forward, a rota will be produced and handed out to those kindly volunteering. Readers and Eucharistic ministers will be contacted too before a new will be produced. If anyone has any questions, please either contact Fr. Roddy or Jim MacLean (07932 490260).

First Holy Communion: Five children from our parish have begun preparations to make their First Holy Communion on Sunday, 22nd June during the 10am Mass. Please pray for the children who will take this important step in their journey of faith. Please pray too for Liam Cruickshank and Abigail Ledsom who will be received into the church at Easter.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: For the parishioners who have signed up for the pilgrimage to Lourdes from Thursday, 8th May until Thursday, 15th May, a tradition of Lourdes is for pilgrim groups to have their own t-shirts. Fr. Ronald is going to place an order for polo style t-shirts soon, therefore if you could let Fr Roddy your size that would be appreciated (S, M, L, XL etc). You won't have to wear these every day!!

Congratulations to **June and Billy Owen** who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on Thursday. They were married in St. Mun's sixty years ago. Fr Pat Kennedy was the priest who officiated at their marriage. May God continue to bless June and Billy and their daughters Susan and Samantha.

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.

A Little Thought

“ The prodigal son came home empty-handed. He had no trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise, his welcome and his love. He was a failure. Worse – he was a sinner. He deserved to be punished – and he knew it. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed. To punish him would be like pouring water on a dying fire. What happened? When the father saw his lost son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and next minute they were in each others arms. It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness. Such love is like a breeze to a dying fire, or rain falling on parched ground. Those who have experienced this kind of love know something about the heart of God”. (Fr Flor McCarthy,SDB).

A Litany for Mothers

Eve our first mother – thank you for stepping out and being the first to understand the complexities of life. Sarah, Hannah and Elizabeth – thank you for your patience and courage in waiting for a miracle. May all people longing for children be strengthened by your stories and comforted in their pain.

Hagar – thank you for your resolve in the face of exile. May all mothers who are forced to flee or are forgotten be given hope in you. Rebecca – thank you for your flexibility. Let us remember all mothers who have to raise their children in a different country or far from their relatives and who feel isolated.

Rachel – you carried the burden of grief and wept for your children. Hold the hands of all those mothers who weep for their children – children who have gone missing, who have died or are lost to them in other ways. Jochebed – you used wisdom and insight to protect your children. Give to all mothers this wisdom and insight in the bringing up of their children, especially in vulnerable times.

Naomi and Ruth – you showed that love can conquer all trials. Help all mothers to love constantly when life seems impossible and despair weighs hard upon their souls. Mary – the new Eve whose ‘yes’ to God changed our world forever. Thank you for sheltering the Holy One all those years ago, for your faithful love and tender care of God's most precious Son. May we never forget that in your giving is our greatest receiving –of the gift of life wrapped in a manger and in a tomb. May we know the true cost of relationship by holding our faith in Christ deep within our hearts as you once held him deep within your womb.