



**Third Sunday of Easter, C.  
4<sup>th</sup> May, 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**

Tuesday: 10.00am

Wednesday: 10.00am

Thursday: 10.00am Communion Service

Friday: 10.00am Communion Service

Saturday: 6.00pm

Sunday: 10.00am

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5.30pm

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

**Eucharistic Adoration:** After Mass on Wednesday morning.

**Scripture Readings:**

*Acts 5:27-32* Peter and the apostles are reprimanded for teaching about Jesus.

*Apocalypse 5:11-14* John shares his vision of heaven.

*John 20:1-19* Jesus' third appearance to the disciples is described.

A **Pastoral Letter on Assisted Suicide** written by the Scottish Bishops is available from the back of the church. Please take a copy home with you. We are reaching another critical stage in the process where two bills, one before the Westminster parliament and the other before the Holyrood parliament, are coming up for their next voting stage in the coming weeks. "We all feel compassion for those who are terminally ill and dying and are perhaps in fear of a painful death. Our desire for better palliative care is about ensuring those at the final stages of life feel valued, treated with compassion, given the benefit of modern pain relief and helped feel some peace at the end. We owe a common responsibility to each other, especially to those who are weak, ill and dying. Legalising assisted suicide amounts to a rejection of this shared duty. Focussing the energies of both parliaments on improving palliative care, which is underfunded and inaccessible to many, is the right and the better way to go."(Scottish Bishops).

**Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Joint Dunoon, Portree and Dornie Parishes – Holy Year Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to the parishioners who have signed up for the pilgrimage to Lourdes. We will light a candle or two in Lourdes for all our parishioners!

A warm welcome is extended to **Fr Vincent Byrne** who will supply in the parish while Fr Roddy is on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

**Children's Liturgy:** There was a good turnout of volunteers at the meeting during the week to help with the organisation of Children's Liturgy in the parish. Thank you to those who came along. Barbara Liddell, our parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator was at the meeting and she will apply for PVG (protecting vulnerable group) certificates for the volunteers. Children's Liturgy will only be successful with willing volunteers.....and children. Children's Liturgy will start in the parish on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

A warm welcome into the Church to **Robi Kennedy** who was baptised last Saturday. May God continue to bless the wee one and his parents on their journey of faith.

The **Liturgy Works** weekends will resume again on 19<sup>th</sup> until 21<sup>st</sup> September in the Conforti Institute, Coatbridge. This is a weekend of liturgy-themed workshops, spiritual talks, liturgical singing, prayer and get together with people from around the parishes of Argyll and the Isles. Please see the poster on the church noticeboard. More details from Fr Roddy.

**First Holy Communions:** Five children from our parish have begun preparations to make their First Holy Communion on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June during the 10.00am Mass. Please pray for the children who will take this important step in their journey of faith.

**Parish Beetle Drive:** Come along and enjoy a fund raising parish beetle drive on Friday 30th of May, 7 for 7.30pm. BYOB, snacks and a light supper included in the ticket price of £5. Prize for overall winner and for the best decorated beetle. Raffle prizes will be gratefully received. Tickets on sale at the door and from the back of the church from 10th of May.

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.

### Pope Francis: Gospel of Fragility

It was not the papal cassock, the golden cross, or the solemn gaze from a palace balcony that marked April 10, 2025. Instead, it was a fragile old man in a striped poncho, worn black trousers, and oxygen tubing, rolling quietly through the grandeur of St. Peter's Basilica.

No proclamation, no camera crews, no ceremonial fanfare. Just a tired pilgrim in the skin of a pope, moving slowly toward the restored chair of Peter and the tomb of Saint Pius X.

To some, it was a scandal. To others, a shock. And to a few—perhaps not many—it was a moment of profound, unscripted holiness.

Because it was not the Vicar of Christ clothed in tradition but something far rarer: a leader without costume, a priest without performance, a man who dared to embody the Gospel in raw, human skin.

In an institution where clothing is language—the cassock, the skullcap, the ring—all speak of office, succession, and sacred continuity—Francis chose a language older than vestments: the language of presence. In his beige Argentine poncho, he wasn't signalling authority; he was invoking memory—of his homeland, of the poor, of the Jesus who walked dusty roads with no sceptre, throne, or robe worth envying.

Some saw an older man too frail to dress appropriately. Others saw disrespect for ritual. But to those attuned to the undercurrent, it was something else entirely: a gesture of undoing, the kind that refuses to uphold a performance when the soul is calling for honesty. He didn't come to be venerated that day. He came to be. And in doing so, he reminded the Church—perhaps unintentionally—that the robes, collar, rituals, and relics are only bridges. They are not the water beneath.

When we strip away the grandeur, what remains is a question the Church must confront more often: What happens when the sacred no longer looks impressive? When authority arrives in a wheelchair, with sunken eyes and no cross on its chest?

Whether deliberately or by accident, Francis exposed the quiet truth: the real scandal is not the poncho, but how much we've come to rely on appearances to sustain our reverence.

We want our popes upright, glowing, and draped in theology. We don't want them too human, too frail, too much like us.

But isn't that precisely the paradox at the heart of Christianity?

Today, when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a colt, his official representative on earth is wheelchaired into the most ornate church on earth, dressed in an Argentinian poncho reminded us that fragility is not the opposite of faith—it may be its most honest form.

That perhaps, in a moment like this, the Church caught a glimpse of what Jesus meant when he knelt to wash feet instead of issuing commands.

This was not the Pope as prince or priest. This was the Pope as a person, as a pilgrim, as a reminder that grace may arrive not dressed in white but in weakness.

And maybe, just maybe, that is the Church we need to become.