



Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – C
14th September, 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: 10am Mass in St Mun's Primary School. All welcome

Wednesday: 10am

Thursday: 10.30am Requiem Mass for Alex Pollock

Friday: 10am

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 10.00am

Confessions: Saturday at 5.30pm

Rosary: After Mass on Thursday morning.

Eucharistic Adoration: After Mass on Wednesday morning.

Scripture Readings:

Numbers 21:4-9 The bronze serpent Moses put on a pole, with the power to cure, is a symbol of the cross of Christ.

Philippians 2:6-11 Understanding the humility of Jesus and his glory gives us a balanced picture of the meaning of Jesus' life and death.

John 3:13-17 Jesus compares himself to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert.

Today, we begin our celebration of **Vocations Awareness Week** in Scotland. It is a time when we are encouraged to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life. A letter from Bishop John Keenan has been prepared for Vocations Sunday and will be read out during Mass.

The **Season of Creation** is marked throughout the Christian world from 1st September to 4th October (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) and celebrates the joy of creation as well as encouraging awareness-raising initiatives to protect the natural environment. The theme for the Season of Creation 2025 is "Peace With Creation", and its symbol is the Garden of Peace, which depicts a white dove flying over a tree.

Fr. Roddy will be away on **Retreat** this week from Wednesday until Monday. Please extend a warm welcome to Fr Joe McNulty who will cover in the parish.

The special collection this weekend will be for the **Sick and Retired Priests** of the Diocese.

A **Fundraising family Bingo night** will take place on Friday, 3rd October at 7pm for 7.30pm in St Mun's hall. Tickets £5, BYOB. Nibbles, tea/coffee and cakes included. Raffle. Donations of raffle prizes gratefully received. Tickets will be on sale in the church porch from Saturday, 20th September.

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 Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

The Deacons, priests and bishop of Argyll and the Isles who were present at their Clergy Assembly on Wednesday 10th September endorsed the Caritas Internationalis statement on man-made famine and assault on Gaza city and sent it to the Prime Minister, asking for immediate action from the UK Government which will help stop the atrocities.

On August 20, 2025, Israeli forces stormed Gaza City, where nearly one million displaced civilians had sought refuge, many already starving. Two days later, on August 22nd, the United Nations declared a famine. By then, the damage was done: 273 people had already died of starvation, including 112 children. The declaration was not a warning, but a grim confirmation of what humanitarian organisations have been saying for months: **Gazans have long endured a deliberate descent into starvation.**

This is not a tragic accident. It is the result of calculated choices. A population stripped of shelter, sustenance, and safety has been left to perish in full view of the world.

This is not war. It is the systematic destruction of civilian life. The siege of Gaza has become a machinery of annihilation, sustained by impunity and the silence, or complicity, of powerful nations. Famine here is not a natural disaster, but the outcome of a deliberate strategy: blocking aid, bombing food convoys, destroying infrastructure, and denying basic needs.

Caritas Internationalis bears witness to this horror. Civilians, mostly children and women, are being starved, bombed, and erased. Influential governments, corporations, and multinationals have enabled this catastrophe through military support, financial aid, and diplomatic cover. Their silence is not neutrality, it is endorsement.

Meanwhile, the international community offers hollow declarations and empty platitudes. These double standards serve only to buy time for further destruction. Caritas Internationalis sees in Gaza a deliberate assault on human dignity and the collapse of moral order, a failure of leadership, responsibility, and humanity itself.

In the light of the Spirit that guides us, Caritas Internationalis abhors all these acts and omissions in the strongest terms. They represent a blatant disregard for the values and fundamental principles of humanity and clearly violate International Law, International Humanitarian Law, and International Human Rights Law, as well as numerous provisions of specific UN Conventions, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Fratelli Tutti*: **“We are either all saved together or no one is saved.”**

And Scripture compels us: **“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.”** (*Proverbs 31:8*) **“Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”** (*Matthew 25:45*)

Caritas Internationalis demands:

1. An immediate and permanent ceasefire.
2. Unrestricted humanitarian access to end starvation and provide care.
3. Release of all hostages and arbitrarily detained persons.
4. Deployment of a UN peacekeeping force to protect civilians.
5. Protection of all civilians, especially children, women, and the elderly.
6. Accountability for all perpetrators and enablers before national and international courts.
7. Full implementation of the ICJ Advisory Opinion of July 19, 2024, including:
 - Ending Israel’s unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
 - Ceasing settlement activity and evacuating settlers.
 - Providing reparations.
 - Requiring states to reject the unlawful situation.
 - Mandating UN bodies to take concrete steps to end the occupation.

The famine in Gaza is a test of moral integrity, and too many have failed. To starve a population is to desecrate life. To remain silent is to be complicit.

Caritas Internationalis calls on all people of faith and conscience to raise their voices, pressure their governments, and demand justice. The world is watching. History is recording. And Gaza is waiting, not for words, but for salvation.