



Sixth Sunday of the Year – A
15th February, 2026

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles
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Charity registration number - SC002876

Masses during the Week

Tuesday: 11am Requiem Mass for Margaret O'Loughlin
Ash Wednesday: 10am and 7pm. Day of Fasting and Abstinence
Thursday: 10am
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:

Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37

The Beatitudes were part of the Gospel two weeks ago; today's Gospel elaborates on their meaning. The first reading invites us to make the choice that will bring us life, while the second reading tells us we have great wisdom available to us.

The beautiful season of **Lent** begins this week with **Ash Wednesday**. The forty days of Lent remind us of two Biblical events: the forty years spent in the desert by the Israelites before deliverance to the Promised Land, and Christ's entering the desert to fast for forty days, where he was tempted by the devil. The call during Lent is to focus on three things: fasting, prayer and almsgiving (giving to others). It is a time for personal reflection, renewal and reform, a time to be 'led by the Spirit' as Jesus was. Lent prepares for Easter.....we fast before we feast, we enter the desert before we are delivered. People often ask what determines the date of Easter. The Council of Nicaea, in 325 A.D. determined that Easter should be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon of Spring. To determine the beginning of Lent, count back six Sundays before Easter. The Wednesday before the first of these Sundays is Ash Wednesday.

SCIAF Lenten "Wee Boxes" are available from the church porch. Please take one home with you. The Lenten appeal this year focuses on Ethiopia, where decades of progress is being undone by conflict, droughts, floods, and cuts to international aid.

The **Parish Lenten programme** this year will provide all parishioners an opportunity to enter into the spirit of Lent, using it as an opportunity to be 'led by the Spirit' as Jesus was. Marion Pallister will deliver a talk on behalf of SCIAF and Pax Christi in our parish hall on Wednesday, 4th March at 7.00p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the parish twice weekly during Lent.

On most Wednesday evenings, beginning 25th February at 7pm in the hall there will be Lectio Divina (which means 'divine reading' in Latin). It is a meditative way of reading a scripture passage in which we let go of our own agendas and open ourselves to what God is trying to say to us. 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!

For parishioners who would like to do a Lenten Retreat, The Ignatian Spirituality Centre are running a Lenten Retreat again this year. Books are available at £5 each for those who would like to do the Retreat and they are available from the church porch.

Diocesan Workshop on Conversation in the Spirit: Pope Leo has strongly reiterated the call of Pope Francis for a more discerning and consultative Church. Building on his experience of the Conversation in the Spirit (CiS) method during the Synod of Bishops, Bishop Brian and Catriona Fletcher (Director, Ignatian Spirituality Centre) invite you to a Diocesan Workshop on Conversation in the Spirit on Saturday 21st March from 10am-5pm. CiS will be helpful for members of Pastoral Councils and other groups as well as in settings such as schools and family life. The Workshop is online and so you can join from the comfort of your own home, although people from the same parish or area may wish to gather for company, using the one device. The Workshop is free but you must register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Kl8qed6KSn2hY9Gzy7w64g>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Diocesan **Chrism Mass** will be celebrated in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Wednesday, 25th March at 12.30pm. Should it be needed, a bus can be organised for parishioners to attend. More details to follow.

We extend a warm welcome to **Bishop Brian** who will make a pastoral visit to the parish next weekend and will celebrate the weekend Masses.

Our **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated this year on Sunday, 7th June during 10am Mass. There will be a meeting for the parents of P4 children in the church hall at 6pm on Thursday, 19th February.

There will be a special collection this weekend for the **Diocesan Pastoral Fund**. This Fund supports various pastoral initiatives throughout the diocese. One example is Safeguarding. Ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are safe is a core Christian virtue. An independent Safeguarding body (Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency) has been recently established to support all the dioceses, including Argyll and the Isles. We are grateful for your financial support towards these and other initiatives.

Our local **World Day of Prayer** service this year will be held in Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church on Friday, 6th March at 2.30pm. There will be a minibus shuttle service from the West Bay Car Park from 1.45pm. Please use this service if you are attending the service as there is limited parking at the church. This year's theme is, "I will give you rest:- Come". It has been prepared by Christian women of Nigeria.

Fr Henry McLaughlin from Edinburgh will visit the parish and celebrate the weekend Masses on Saturday/Sunday 14th and 15th March. Fr Henry spent many years working in Latin America and he is visiting parishes to promote a book, "The Song of the Poor" about Fr Tommy Greenan, who chose to live and work among the poorest of the poor in El Salvador in the 1980s and early 1990s. Following Fr Tommy's death, the book collects an exceptional selection of his writings from El Salvador, presented in powerful, shattering short chapters.

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.

Reflection:

"A man had a row with his wife before going to work in the morning. Halfway through the morning it was still bothering him, so he rang his wife and apologised for his part in it. Later he said to a friend, "I didn't want her to carry that all day". He didn't do himself any harm either". (Fr Flor McCarthy).