



**First Sunday of Lent – A**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026**

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

**Masses during the Week**

Tuesday: 10am  
Wednesday: 11am Requiem Mass for Daniel Bonnar  
Thursday: 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am  
Friday: 10am preceded by Stations of the Cross at 9.30am  
  
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.

**Stations of the Cross:** Thursday at 9.30am and Friday at 9.30 a.m.

**Scripture Readings:**

*Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7* — Describes the entry of sin into the world through the story of Adam and Eve.

*Romans 5:12-19* — Paul brings the First Reading and Gospel together, and tells us that the death of Jesus freed all from sin.

*Matthew 4:1-11* — The Gospel shows us that even Jesus had to endure temptation.

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.

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, 4<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00p.m.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the parish twice weekly during Lent, this week Thursday and Friday before Mass.

On Wednesday evenings, beginning this week, 25<sup>th</sup> 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, 25<sup>th</sup> 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 this weekend and will celebrate the weekend Masses. Bishop Brian celebrated his tenth anniversary as Bishop during the week. May God continue to bless him in his ministry.

Our **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated this year on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June during 10am Mass. Thank you to the parents who came along to the meeting during the week. Please pray for the children from our parish who are preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of the Eucharist.

The special collection last weekend for the **Diocesan Pastoral Fund** raised £396. Thank you. 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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:

"Lent is a kind of spiritual pruning time. There is much that is useless and perhaps harmful in our lives, which saps our energy, and diminishes our spiritual fruitfulness. Of what shall we prune ourselves this Lent so that we may become more fruitful branches of Christ, the true Vine? (Fr Flor McCarthy, SDB).