



**Palm Sunday– A
29th March, 2026**

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: 10am

Wednesday: 10am

7pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday: 11.30am Requiem Mass for Gemma Brownlee

7pm Mass of the Lord's supper followed by watching at the altar of repose until

10.00pm. The watching is in silence.

Good Friday: 3.00pm Passion of the Lord

7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday: 9.00pm Easter 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: Wednesday at 7.00pm and Friday at 7.00 p.m.

This Week is **Holy Week**, the most important week in the calendar of the church. As well as attending the services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (referred to collectively as the Triduum), the Church also asks us to ensure that we are reconciled and at peace with God and neighbour for the worthy celebration of Easter.

Pilate, the mob, Herod, the leaders failed to live up to their responsibilities because they did not recognise Jesus for who he really was. The reading of the Passion and the celebration of Holy Week is an opportunity to avoid the same fate. How do I act like Pilate in my daily life? Do I join in with the mob and crucify someone today? Do I act like Herod? Am I like the religious leaders of Jesus day? May God give us the courage to be witnesses.

There is an active **Fraternal** in the Dunoon area between the clergy and churches of all the Christian denominations and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy week all the Christian churches advertise their ecumenical services which are open to all people. Wednesday – St Mun's Stations of the Cross at 7pm

Church cleaning in preparation for Easter: There will be church cleaning in preparation for Easter on Tuesday evening 31st at 7pm. Please come along and help if you can spare an hour. Many thanks.

Our **First Holy Communions** will be celebrated this year on Sunday, 7th June during 10am Mass. Please pray for the eight children from our parish who are preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Church Heating: As parishioners are aware, the church boiler broke down before Christmas and it was out of service for seven weeks. It has now been repaired at a cost of £1 024.26. During that time, six commercial blow heaters were used to heat the church. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a very high electricity bill of £4 189.98. To help cover these unexpected expenses, a special collection for church heating will be taken on the weekend of 12th April. Any contribution towards this cost would be greatly appreciated.

The open invitation was extended to all parishioners to come along to a Diocesan Workshop on **Conversation in the Spirit** last Saturday. Nine parishioners turned up and we met in the dining room of the parish house. The outline of the meeting involved Bishop Brian and Catriona Fletcher (Director, Ignatian Spirituality Centre) leading us and Bishop Brian sharing his experience of the Conversation in the Spirit (CiS) method used during the Synod of Bishops. Something beautiful happened. We had an encounter with the Risen Christ through scripture and silence. The scripture passage was the one for the fifth Sunday of Lent, the raising of Lazarus. It was as if we had all been restored to life ourselves, not just Lazarus. There was real listening from the heart. There was a sense of, “listening to understand” rather than “listening to respond”. We all went back to our homes with a smile on our faces and with a recipe for Irish soda bread!

A number of parishioners have registered interest in travelling to **Lourdes** in July. If anyone else is interested, please email group521@hcpt.org.uk by Sunday 5th April.

Please see the poster on the church noticeboard about the upcoming **Conforti Liturgy weekend** in May, which is a weekend of liturgy-themed workshops, spiritual talks, liturgical singing, prayer and *get-together* with people from around the parishes of Argyll & the Isles.

Gift Aid: Gift Aid is an important source of income for the Parish. Last year we received £6 460.25 back from HMRC. For every one donation to the Parish, we can claim a further 25% from HMRC provided the donor is signed up to Gift Aid. It doesn't cost you any extra and covers all your donations. What is involved?

1. You must be a current UK taxpayer.
2. You must sign a simple declaration – showing your name and address.
3. You can donate in any way and as often or little as you like – standing order, envelopes, cheques. We just need to identify that the donation has come from you, name on bank statement, or for cash, in a numbered envelope.

Please consider this. It really helps the parish funds and costs you nothing. If you would like to discuss or find out more, please contact our Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator, Elaine Brown on Ph 07780808286.

The new envelopes are ready to be collected from the church porch. The numbered envelopes are for gift aid donations and the unnumbered envelopes are for anyone wishing privacy for non-gift aid donations. Please let Elaine Brown know if you no longer wish to be part of the scheme due to a change in your tax situation.

Statement from the Bishops of Scotland for Reflection:

“Following a request from the Holy See, the Bishops of Scotland have been invited to reflect on how the structures of the Church in our country can best serve her mission in the years ahead, specifically whether the present situation of eight dioceses is suitable. We are all aware of the challenges before us — fewer clergy, changing patterns of practice, and increasing pressures on our diocesan resources, among other things. Yet our mission remains unchanged: to proclaim the Gospel and to lead our people to Christ.

Two possible pathways are being proposed for careful discernment: developing deeper cooperation and the sharing of resources across dioceses within our present structures, or the merging of some dioceses.

In order to best inform ourselves and the Holy See, each bishop will engage with his diocese over the coming months for the first part of this process. Everyone will be given the opportunity to pray, reflect, and contribute. Following-on from the presentation of a discussion paper, responses from each diocese will contribute to the initial findings which will be given to the Holy See in the Autumn. This is not simply an administrative exercise. It is a pastoral and missionary response to our changing landscape. This process will ensure our Church in Scotland will continue to grow ever more missionary, more Christ-centred, and more collaborative in the service of God's people.

Entrusting this work to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the intercession of Our Lady, we move forward together with confidence and renewed hope”.

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.