


**First Sunday of Advent, B**
**29th November, 2026**

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

**Masses during the Week**

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| Monday | 10am St Andrew |
| Tuesday: | 10am |
| Wednesday: | 10am and 6pm Mass in St Mary's, Fort William for Fr Sandy's 40th anniversary. |
| Thursday: | No Mass |
| Friday: | 10am |
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| Saturday: | 6pm Vigil |
| Sunday: | 10am |

**Confessions**: Saturday at 5.30pm
**Rosary**: After Mass on Thursday morning.
**Eucharistic Adoration**: After Mass on Wednesday morning.

**Scripture Readings:**
*Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8* — Isaiah regrets that God's people stray, but affirms that God is the potter, and we are all the work of his hand.
*1 Corinthians 1:3-9* — Paul thanks God for the graces received by the Christians in Corinth, and prays that they will remain steady.
*Mark 13:33-37* — Be on your guard, says Jesus, because the Master may come unexpectedly.

The **Advent season** begins this weekend. Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, "Letters from the Desert". He wrote, "Be patient, learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God". The Advent season is about learning to wait. It is about not opening the Christmas gift too early. A feast can only be celebrated properly after there has been fasting. A race can only be run well after proper training. Christmas can only be celebrated after a fruitful Advent.

There will be a **"Healing service"** in the parish next Sunday, 6th December at 3pm. Please come along if you can. Every person has his/her own wounds and scars. During the service, parishioners will be invited to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. The Sacrament of the Sick is a healing one which is really about what God wants to do in us and through us and for us in this wonderful encounter. It tells us that God is love, and love is always oriented toward healing and wholeness.

**Advent Reflection:** On Sunday, 13th December at 3pm, there will be a service of reflective readings and music in the church led by St Mun's Singers. Please come along and make time to reflect on the beautiful season of Advent, a time of waiting and spiritual reflection, and the start of another year in the Church's calendar. There will be a cup of tea/coffee in the church hall after the service.

**Discerning Mission:** On Monday of this week, we will have the last of the nine Diocesan Mission discernment meetings. Seventy delegates from across our diocese have been meeting for two hours over the past few months. Please keep them and their deliberations in your prayers. The link for the weekly materials is: https://www.ledbythespirit.rcdai.org.uk/discerning-mission/ The materials can be accessed quite easily via the diocesan website.

The parish **Pastoral Council AGM** will be held on Wednesday, 16th December at 7pm in the church hall. The Council serves as a listening body, attentive to the voice of God and the lived experience of parishioners. It asks, "Where is the Holy Spirit leading us? What are the needs, hopes and struggles of our community?" A pastoral council is not primarily about voting or managing. Its heart is prayerful discernment, seeking God's will together with humility and trust. Jim Maclean will retire as the Chairperson of the Council after almost ten years of faithful service. We thank Jim for his hard work and commitment over the years and for his faithfulness in serving on the Pastoral Council. Please consider coming along to the AGM and playing an active role in the Pastoral Council of the parish.

**Flower arranging**: Thank you to our parishioners who have given and who give of their time to look after flower arranging in our church throughout the year. Two of our volunteers have just retired from this ministry and we thank them. More volunteers are required to help with this important and valuable ministry. If more people come forward to volunteer, a rota can be organised to share the work. Please see Fr Roddy if you can help out.

**St Andrew's Parish, Rothesay** and Joe Walsh Travel are organizing a pilgrimage to the SHRINES OF LITHUANIA on 12th – 19th July 2027. The cost including B&B accommodation in central 4 star hotels, flights, coaches, entrance fees and guides will be approximately £1375. If you think you might be interested in joining please get in touch with Fr Jarek Kwiecien (phone number 07300489060) by Sunday 29th November.

Last weekend a special collection was held for **Fr Sandy** who will celebrate his 40th anniversary on Wednesday. £540 was raised. Thank you to parishioners. Please let Fr. Roddy know, for catering purposes, if you will be attending Fr Sandy's Mass of Thanksgiving and hospitality afterwards.

**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.

**SCIAF Real Gifts**. As well as continuing to provide aid for those most in need SCIAF has launched its 'Real Gifts' campaign. Have a look on their website for Christmas gifts that provide life changing benefits to others. https://www.sciaf.org.uk/

**Teas/Coffees**: Available in the Church Hall after Mass on Sunday. All welcome.

## Pause for Thought

**The Good Old Days**: "Pity the poor children of today, with their calendars stuffed with chocolates, never to know the thrill of opening a small cardboard door and discovering behind it a picture of a bell". (Brian Bilson).

"If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining". (Anon).