



**8th May, 2022.**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter , C.**

RC Diocese of Argyll and the Isles

Fr Roddy McAuley, Parish Priest

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Charity registration number - SC002876

**Mass Times for the Week:**

Tuesday 10.00a.m.

Wednesday: 10.00a.m.

Thursday: 10.00a.m.

Friday: 10.00a.m.

Saturday: 6.00p.m. Vigil Mass.

Sunday: 9.00am and 11.00am.

**Confessions:** Saturday before Vigil Mass and on request.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** After Mass on Wednesday.

**Introduction to the Scripture Readings:**

First Reading: Acts 13:14-43-52. Paul and Barnabas preach the Gospel firstly to the Jews but they reject it; then they preach it to the Gentiles who receive it with joy.

Second Reading: Rev 7:9-14-17. This contains a vision of those who will come through times of persecution to share in Christ's glory in heaven.

Gospel: John 10:27-30. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will not allow anyone to snatch from his care the sheep the Father has given him.

Today, **Good Shepherd Sunday**, we focus our prayer on how pastoral care of each other can continue into the future. The challenge is for all parishioners to somehow be shepherds to one another. This involves the effort to learn the names of individuals who join in worship with us, so as to be able to greet them by name and make them really welcome.

The Good Shepherd knows each of us personally, and calls us each by name. The more we build a sense of belonging and of trust in the parish, the better we can identify the ones who would be good shepherds. We might then quietly approach them to take on the kind of leadership that our Church needs for today.

As we receive this Good Shepherd in Holy Communion, we trust him to lead us to that living water and bless us with a closer relationship with him personally, and with others in his name.

**Bishop Brian's letter for Good Shepherd Sunday:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On Good Shepherd Sunday I greet each one of you, who are God's faithful followers.

Today, along with Archbishop Nolan, I am in Rome making a visitation of our Scottish seminary where we will listen to, encourage and challenge our next generation of shepherds. Please support them by your prayers. I have also met with Deacon Philip Bua who will be ordained to the priesthood in St Columba's Cathedral on the 21st of June. Philip has dedicated his life to God and Argyll and the Isles. Please pray for him that he will be a shepherd after the Lord's heart. If you can manage, and especially if you have never been to an ordination, I encourage you to join us.

Today I also thank our priests for their service to you, especially during these difficult times for everyone. I am very grateful for their fidelity to God and their witness points us towards the Father. I also think of our retired clergy who, each in their own way, still lead people to God.

I also delight in your support of our priests and deacons which has been particularly thoughtful and uplifting during the pandemic.

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that we are to listen to his voice and follow him. The more our priests listen to Our Lord in their hearts the better they will lead you to him. Therefore, it is crucial for priests to dedicate regular time to prayer and also participate in Retreats and Spiritual Direction. In a rural diocese like ours these last two activities will normally involve travelling which will take them away from their parishes. Sometimes priests feel uncomfortable about this and may worry what people will think. However, the Church considers these activities to

be essential. Likewise, I also consider it important that priests spend time together and I encourage them to make the time to do this.

We all can have a positive influence on each other's vocation. Earlier this year I attended the funeral of Fr Benny O'Keeffe in my home town of Greenock. He was a true shepherd who was greatly and widely loved. He was my curate as a child, my Spiritual Director in Seminary and my Parish Priest after Ordination but, most importantly, he was the first person to ever ask me if I would consider becoming a priest. At the time I declined the offer (!) but I have no doubt that a seed had been planted. I now ask our younger men – is the Lord calling you to be a priest? If you think that he may be, do not be afraid! I have no doubt that God is still inviting, and I encourage our clergy, families and parishes to help by developing a strong culture of vocation throughout our diocese

May the Good Shepherd abundantly bestow his blessings upon you,

Right Reverend Brian McGee, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles

**St. Mun's Primary School:** Children from the Primary 4 class visited the church this week to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.



Please pray for the children from our parish who are preparing for their First Holy Communion.

The Primary four children from **St. Mun's primary school** will make their first Holy Communion on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00a.m. Children who attend other schools will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 21<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00a.m. May God continue to bless

them in their journey of faith.

Now that things are beginning to 'open up' after a difficult time with the Coronavirus, it would be good to bring parishioners together in a social setting. A **parish BBQ** is being planned and all parishioners are welcome. To help organise this, a meeting will be held in the parish hall on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00p.m. Please come along if you would like to help out.

The **parish walking group** will meet on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00a.m. outside the church. All welcome.

**Church cleaners:** Thank you to the parishioners who have responded to the appeal for more church cleaners. If you are available to help clean the Church, please contact **Margaret Bitler** in person or via her mobile phone number on **07462 296544**.

There will be **Tea/Coffee** in the Church hall after 11a.m. Mass on Sunday. All welcome