

*Our Lady and St.Mun's Church
8 Brandon Street
Dunoon
PA23 8BU
Tel.01369 702125*

Email:dunoon@rcdai.org.uk

5th January, 2021.

Dear Parishioners

As you will no doubt be aware, the Scottish Government has announced that places of worship are to close from Friday, 8th January until 1st February, with a review in two weeks time.

It's quite interesting that the Gospel reading (Mk6:45-52) for our last parish public Mass before lockdown involves Jesus, after feeding the crowd, telling the disciples to get into the boat and head for Bethsaida. After saying goodbye to the crowd and after private prayer, he approaches the storm-tossed boat and encourages his disciples saying, "Courage. It is I. Do not be afraid". This might well be a thought to hold onto as we head into another period of lockdown. We continue to pray for the people who have died because of Covid 19, we think of their loved ones and of those in hospital. We think of doctors and nurses and carers, those worried about their jobs, those battling under the weight of depression, those on the brink of despair, those who feel useless.

The weekly parish bulletin will continue to be printed and can be accessed via the parish website, www.stmuns.com. Please feel free to contact Fr. Roddy by telephone or e-mail at any time, or knock on the door of the parish house if you wish to see him outside on a one to one basis. For those who like to watch Mass online, Bishop Brian has a daily live streamed Mass which can be accessed by visiting the Diocesan website, www.rcdai.org.uk There are many other alternatives.

The Friendship Blessing seems very appropriate for this time, "May you be blessed with good friends. May you learn to be a good friend to yourself. May you be able to journey to that place in your soul where there is great love, warmth, feeling and forgiveness. May this change you. May it transfigure that which is negative, distant or cold in you. May you be brought in to the real passion, kinship and affinity of belonging. May you treasure your friends. May you be good to them and may you be there for them. May they bring you all the blessings, challenges, truth and light that you need for your journey. May you never be isolated, but may you always be in the gentle nest of belonging with your ANAM CARA".

My thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless you and keep you safe.
Fr. Roddy