

A very warm welcome to all visitors.

Parish News

Children's Liturgy – St Mun's

The Children's Liturgy in St Mun's could do with another volunteer. If you could help then please do let Laura, or Fr Roddy know.

SCIAF Boxes

It's only another week and a half to go before Ash Wednesday. The SCIAF Boxes are already available at the back of the church.

Preparation for Sacraments

The first session of preparation for the sacraments in St Mun's Chapel House on Friday at 4.00 p.m.

Ballachulish Parish Council Meeting

We are looking for some new members for the Parish Council – So, if you would like to join (it's only 4 meetings a year) then please do let me know.

School Assembly

There will be a School Assembly at Ballachulish Primary School on Friday at 9.30 a.m.

New Canons

Bishop Brian has appointed 4 new Canons for the Diocesan Chapter. Rev. Michael Hutson, Rev. John Paul MacKinnon, Rev William MacLean and Rev Roddy Johnston. They will be installed as Canons on Tuesday 10th March at 6.30 p.m. in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. This will be followed by a Mass in memorial of St John Ogilvie

All are invited to attend.

Collection

Taynuilt – we raised £69.00 including £15.00 from Gift Aid, plus £15.00 from Direct Debits giving a total of £84.00, plus £20.00 for the building fund. Ballachulish – we raised £199.42, plus £60.20 from Direct Debits, giving a total of £259.62. We also raised £28.00 from the Rag Bag collection. Many thanks to you.

“In our world, especially in some countries, different forms of war and conflict are re-emerging, yet we as Christians remain steadfast in our intention to respect others, to heal wounds, to build bridges, to strengthen relationships and to ‘bear one another’s burdens.’”

Pope Francis – Evangelii Gaudium (67)

The Visitation, Taynuilt and St Mun's, Ballachulish & The Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven

16th February 2020 – 6th Sunday of the Year (A)

Mass times for the coming week

Monday	10.00 a.m.	Ballachulish – St Finan - Memorial
Tuesday	10.00 a.m.	Taynuilt – St Colman - Memorial
	12.15 p.m.	Craig Lodge
Wednesday	10.00 a.m.	Ballachulish – 6 th Week of the Year
Thursday	10.00 a.m.	Taynuilt – 6 th Week of the Year
	12.15 p.m.	Craig Lodge
Friday	9.30 a.m.	Ballachulish Primary School
	10.15 a.m.	Ballachulish – 6 th Week of the Year
Saturday	10.00 a.m.	Taynuilt – Chair of St Peter - Feast
	6.00 p.m.	Vigil Mass – Kinlochleven
Sunday	10.00 a.m.	Ballachulish – 7 th Sunday of the Year
	12.30 p.m.	Taynuilt

Confession

Taynuilt – before Mass on Saturday, or Sunday
Ballachulish – 9.30 – 9.50 a.m. on Sundays
and at any other time on request.

Divine Office – Vol 1. Week 2

Weekday readings: 6th Week of the Year (2)

Please remember the sick of the parish in your prayers.

We remember all the faithful departed in our prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.



What are Rules For

It takes a while to grow up.

When I was a boy, I and my brother, who was older by four years, heard a reading at Mass that included the Hebrew word *raqa*. The reading told us that one must not say *raqa* to his brother, since it meant “Thou fool,” and would be will be answerable to the Sanhedrin. Obviously, the moment we left church we began to say, with impunity and humour, *raqa, raka, raka* to each other, since we were brothers in the strict sense of the word.

This unusual word *raqa* is used in today’s Gospel (or at least in the “long version”). Jesus does not say it lightly, as the years have helped me see.

Obviously, human beings do grow up and a progression takes place. A progression I mean from the uncomplicated, grinning approach to the commandments, to a place from which we can truly have understanding, and—if we can hang on into true maturity—to an experience of the insides of the commandments.

That progression is one way of looking at the readings for this Sunday. In the First Reading, the writer speaks in very plain terms, as a father might speak to a son or daughter.

If you choose, you can keep the commandments; they will save you. If you trust in God, you too shall live.

These ancient words echo one of the first books of the Jewish Testament:

I have set before you; life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. (Deut 30: 19-20)

Though my brother and I were boys, we would have understood. We would have recognized “life and death, good and evil.” God was showing us how uncomplicated it is, how un-mysterious and remote for anyone to understand.

Eons later, Jesus came along. The people had already taken the commandments seriously, but now Jesus gave nuance and fullness to them. They became “a wisdom to those who are mature, ... God’s wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages. ... ”

So, one by one, Jesus took the various laws, in all their externality, and drew out their inner roots.

Like this:

- *One external injunction had been against killing.* The inside of that law is, do not even act out of anger for your brother or sister. Not even the word *raqa* should be spoken.

- *You shall not commit adultery.* The inside of that law is: be pure enough to not even glance lustfully at a woman.

- *Divorce.* The interior law is, stay faithful and loving within your marriage relationship, not just do not separate.

- Finally, *oaths.* We could talk of these for pages, but here just realize that today people do use oaths, such as, “ ... in the name of God, ... ” or “OMG,” (which stands for O, MY GOD!), or e.g., “By God, I will never let you. ... ” You hear such slang everywhere, movies, television, high schools, grade schools. Jesus diagnoses these usages simply: you are trying to make up for your weakness by putting almighty power behind your words. He tells them he has a better way. Just say yes or no, and mean it. Or, to say it another way, be real.

Jesus did speak to children, but here it is to us adults. He is offering us the Spirit, and, as St. Paul tells us, the Spirit “scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God”!

Watch Jesus as you progress through life. The inside of the law is written in his heart. As you and I grow up, let it be written in ours too.

John Foley, SJ

https://liturgy.slu.edu/6Ord0216020/relections_foley.html