

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

17th December 2023 -Third Sunday of Advent

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Gaudete Sunday. Rejoice!

Today is Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete being the Latin for 'Let us rejoice!' Today's Entrance Antiphon which we would say were we not singing is:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.

Indeed, the Lord is near.

During Advent (and Lent) we wear violet (or purple) vestments as a sign of our penitence in preparation for the coming celebration of Christmas (or Easter).

It is part of human nature that we cannot go on being penitent for a long time, or we sink into a settled and insincere gloom rather than working at the definite and active spiritual exercise called penance. The Church knows human nature, and both in Advent and Lent there is a moment where the atmosphere of penance and preparation is brightened by a shaft of light from the glorious season, we are preparing ourselves for.

The third Sunday of Advent tells us 'Gaudéte, rejoice!' because the Lord is near and the fourth Sunday of Lent says 'Lætáre, Ierúsalem, be joyful, Jerusalem, and all who love her!' because she herself is loved by the Lord. On Gaudete and Laetare Sundays, therefore, the dark penitential violet is mixed with the white of the approaching festival, becoming what the church officially calls rose, but most people would call pink.

You will also notice that the third candle we light on our Advent wreath is rose rather than violet.

So let us all rejoice today. This afternoon we can all rejoice at our Parish Nativity service having a great sing with the band and listening and watching as our younger parishioners remind us of the real meaning of Christmas.

But Christmas is still a week away and tomorrow we go back to our penitential violet. May we use the coming week to repent and prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas as much as we are preparing for our secular celebrations.

Deacon Graeme

Please find below details of this week’s Mass intentions and other services in our Parish of St Mary’s, Castletown (C/T) and St Columba’s, Port Erin (P/E).

Week commencing 17th December.			
Sunday 17 th December: Third Sunday of Advent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Theresa Marnane (RIP)
Monday 18 th December: Weekday of Advent.			No Mass
Tuesday 19 th December: Weekday of Advent.	P/E	10 am	Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen
Wednesday 20 th December: Weekday of Advent.	C/T	10 am	Paul Dinan (RIP)
Thursday 21 st December: Weekday of Advent.	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	Bernie McDade (RIP) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 22 nd December: Weekday in Advent.	C/T	10 am	Loretta Murphy (1 st Ann.)
Saturday 23 rd December: Weekday in Advent.	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Josephine Hollies (RIP) Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sunday 24 th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Robert Preston (Ann.) People of the Parish

Response to the Psalm:

My soul rejoices in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold our God will come, and he will save us.

Offertory Collection: Last week came to £252.64.

Parish Nativity Service: Takes place today at St Columba's at 3 pm. As usual we are delighted to have the fantastic Rushen Silver band joining us for the afternoon providing the music for the carols and we will be providing refreshments in the hall afterwards for everyone taking part and the congregation to share. **All contributions to the shared table sweet or savoury are gratefully received.** This is a fantastic Parish event - please come along and invite your family, friends, and neighbours to join our celebration - all are welcome!

Christmas Day Mass Times: Will be 9 am at St Mary's and 11 am at St Columba's. Other Masses throughout Octave will be at the normal churches and normal times. Please note the times of Sacrament of Reconciliation this week in both churches.

Manx Language Service: Takes place at St Marys on Sunday 7th January at 3 pm. The service will be of nine lessons and carols.

Christmas Envelopes: Parishioners, please feel free to pick up Christmas envelopes and put in your special Christmas donation for the Parish. The envelopes will be at the back of each church.

Catholic Pic: The December copies of the Catholic Pic are at the back of the churches. These copies are free and not for sale.

Christmas Carol Services: Please see poster at the back of the churches about times of service.

Mass Intentions Received: Theresa Marnane, Bernie McDade, Paul Dinan, Loretta Murphy, Josephine Hollies, Robert Preston, Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen.

Parish Diary:

7th January 2024 3 pm	Manx language service of nine lessons and carols at St Mary's.
10th January 2-4 pm	Craft Club – Restarts for the New Year. This is a lovely social gathering where we bring along a craft we are working on or just drop in for a cup to tea and a slice of cake. All are welcome. 73 Ballacriy Park, Colby.
13th January 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill. The theme is Moving through the Bible with Revd Jo Smart.
29th January 8 pm	Charity concert by Rushen Silver Band at St. Columba's.
20th April	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
18th May	First Communion Mass.

If there are other future events of which you are aware, please let us know so we can add them to the diary. **Social Club Committee contact details:** Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867.