

# St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 - First Sunday of Advent

Email: [stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk) Phone: 01624 822272

Website: [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**Parish Priest:** Father Joseph Kiganda, CSSp

Father Peter Otuonkpaikhian, CSSp (Asst. P/P St Mary's Douglas)

**Deacons:** Rev. Alan Molloy                      [a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk)

Rev. Graeme Easton                      [g.easton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:g.easton@rcaol.org.uk)

## ADVENT SEASON

Advent is an important time of preparation and joyful expectations of the coming of Christ. Advent brings hope and encourages Christians to deepen their faith and trust in God's promises.

The word "Advent" stems from the Latin Word Adventus, which literally means "coming" or "arrival." This primarily refers to the first coming of Jesus on Christmas day which is the historical coming of Christ in the incarnation – Christ's birth at Bethlehem.

The second coming is the spiritual coming of Christ into the hearts of believers through the Sacraments, particularly through Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. In this spiritual coming Christ comes to dwell in the souls of the believers.

The third coming which is the final coming at the end of time (*parousia*), which we don't know the hour or the day. So, as people living in the meantime, we prepare ourselves to be ready with good deeds and works of mercy, our lamps full of oil (Matthew 25:4) and stay awake (Matthew 24:42). Today's opening prayer reflects this reality. ***"Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom."***

The first half of Advent the focus is on the *Parousia* which we profess in the Creed, ***"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,"*** and the second half from the 17<sup>th</sup> of December the focus is on His first coming at Christmas. We must be watchful and ready for these comings during this Advent Season.

Advent is a special season for prayer and conversion. All times are for prayer and conversion but in Advent we pray more, and the best preparation is to receive the Sacrament of reconciliation so that we turn to God with clean hearts. It is good to get involved in spiritual practices that can help us to grow closer to God, for example prayer, meditation, fasting and acts of charity.

In Advent Season, the Blessed Virgin Mary is our model; we learn her virtues: faith, obedience, humility, purity, prudence, devotedness, poverty, mercy, patience etc.

In summary, Advent is a time of joyful expectation and spiritual preparation of the coming of Christ, a period of hope for God's promises, prayer, conversion, and renewal during this special season in the Liturgical Year B.

Fr. Joseph

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).

<b>Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> December.</b>			
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December: <b>First Sunday of Advent.</b>	C/T	9 am	Robert Jeffcock (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
	P/E	11am	Philomena Gallagher (RIP)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Weekday of Advent.</b>			No Mass
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Mem. of St. John Almond, priest.</b>	P/E	10 am	Elaine Morley (RIP)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Weekday in Advent.</b>	C/T	10 am	Anne Heaney (Special Intention)
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Mem. of St Ambrose, Bishop, and Doctor.</b>	P/E	10 am	Sadie Dolan (Sick)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.</b>	C/T	10 am	Graham Mc Farlane (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Weekday in Advent.</b>	C/T	10 am	Doyle, Ross, Blair, and Heaney Family
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December: <b>Second Sunday of Advent.</b>	C/T	9 am	Agnes Mc Donald (RIP)
	P/E	11 am	People of the Parish

### **Response to the Psalm:**

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord your mercy,  
And give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

### **Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.

**Offertory Collection:** Last week came to £263.07.

**National Youth Sunday:** Last week came to £154.30.

**Second Collection:** Today will be for Christmas flowers for our churches.

**Synodal Council:** The Archdiocesan Synodal Council met on Saturday, 25 November, to discuss progress in developing and implementing decisions reached by the Synod in 2021. The Synodal Councils for all 13 Deaneries participated, the Isle of Man Deanery remotely from St Anthony's Parish Centre. We will be providing more detailed reports on the six hour discussion over the coming weeks.

**Parish Nativity Service:** The first practice for the Parish Nativity Service is after the 11.00 Mass today. If you want to take part but haven't already let us know, please can you email Stella on stellaharris13@icloud.com or text her on 412740 asap.

**Christmas Fayre:** Thank you for all those who worked so hard to make the Christmas fayre such a successful event.

**Baptisms:** Next Sunday there will be the Baptism of Sienna Eloise Reeday during the Mass at St Columbia's. Recently Ezekiel Thomas O'Brien was baptized at St Mary's. Please welcome Sienna and Ezekiel into our parish community. Please pray for them and their families.

**Preparing for Christmas:** Why not sign up to CAFOD's online Advent Calendar of daily prayer and reflection? An opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. For more details, please access the website <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>.

**Mass Intentions Received:** Elaine Morley, Anne Heaney, Graham Mc Farlane, Sadie Dolan, Philomena Gallagher, Doyle, Ross, Blair, and Heaney Family. Agnes McDonald, and Robert Jeffcock.

**Parish Diary:**

<b>9<sup>th</sup> December 10 am-12.30pm</b>	Wreath making class at St Columba Hall. Spaces Limited please call Susan on 460514 to book your place.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December 3 pm</b>	Parish Nativity Service at St Columba's.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 2-4pm</b>	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.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 8 pm</b>	Charity concert by Rushen Silver Band at St. Columba's.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	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.