

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

## Third Sunday of Advent

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### **“The Family that Prays Together Stays Together”**

#### **Third Sunday of Advent- GAUDETE SUNDAY**

Rejoice! The Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, fills us with anticipation and excitement as we approach the celebration of Christ's birth. The Latin word "Gaudete" means "rejoice," and this joyous tone is evident in the readings and prayers of this special Sunday.

In the Gospel reading from Matthew, we are filled with anticipation and excitement as we hear John the Baptist's powerful proclamation: "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I am... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11-12). John's words remind us that the long-awaited Messiah is near, and our hearts are filled with eager anticipation.

The second reading from Philippians reminds us to "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). St. Paul encourages us to find deep-rooted joy in our faith, even during life's challenges. This joy is not a superficial happiness but a comforting peace from the knowledge that God is always with us, guiding and protecting us.

As we light the pink candle on our Advent wreath, a symbol of joy and anticipation, let us allow the spirit of Gaudete Sunday to fill our hearts. Let us rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming, the promise of eternal life, and the love God has shown us, and share this joy with others. In doing so, we can spread light and warmth in a dark and cold world, connecting with others through our shared joy.

As we journey through the final weeks of Advent, let us remember that the true meaning of Christmas is not just about gifts and celebrations but about the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we prepare our hearts to welcome Him with open arms and joyful spirits inspired by the true essence of this season.

Let us embrace the spirit of Gaudete Sunday and actively radiate joy to all we meet. May the light of Christ shine brightly within us and through us, illuminating the path to a more hopeful and joyful world. Let's share this joy with those who may be feeling lonely or lost during this season and remind them of the hope and love that Christ's birth brings.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>			
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Aileen and Rob Allen (Special Intention)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>			No Mass
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>	P/E	10 am	Sarah Morley (Special Intention)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	Joan Hook (RIP) Confession
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>	C/T	10 am	
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Weekday in Advent</b>	P/E	11 am	Advent Recollection
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Jennette Verrechia (RIP)

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Shout aloud and sing praise,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
he has sent me to proclaim the 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.

**Offering Collection:** Last week's offertory collection was £163.54

**Second Collection:** Last week for Christmas flowers was £205.00

**Nativity Service:** The Nativity Service takes place today at 3 pm. Please come and support our younger parishioners in what is always a great event. Rushen Silver Band are again providing the music. Please bring some food for the shared table after the service.

**First Holy Communion Class:** If your child will be 7 years of age or above by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, please enroll them for our next First Holy Communion class. The classes will start on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025, and be held each Sunday at 12.30 pm, after 11 o'clock Mass at St Columba's and last for one hour. The actual First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Either:

1) Take an enrollment form from the sacristy and return to Rachel Parr or Julie Maddrell.

2) Phone Rachel on 07815 925076 or Julie on 07624 438462.

**Christmas Envelopes:** During the sacred season of Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Christmas, we share greetings and thoughtful gifts with our family, friends, and loved ones. In this spirit of generosity, Catholics cherish the tradition of making a special Christmas donation to their parish church.

These donations are especially important during the winter months when the costs of heating and maintaining our beautiful, yet aging, church buildings increase significantly. Your contribution helps ensure that our parish remains a warm and welcoming place for everyone, even in the coldest season.

We invite you to take an envelope, place your special Christmas donation inside, and return it by Christmas Day. Your kindness and generosity are deeply appreciated and make a lasting difference in the life of our church community.

Thank you for your continued support. May God bless you abundantly during this holy season of Advent and Christmas.

**Advent Recollection** There will be Advent Recollection and individual Confessions next Saturday at 11 am. This will begin in St Columba's Hall with a film The Forgotten Sacrament. It explains the reality and gravity of sin and the effects it has on our lives and the lives of others. You will discover the Biblical roots of the need for confession of sins and the institution of Confession as a Sacrament by Christ.

**Catholic Hearld:** The Catholic Hearld is now on sale at the back of both churches.

**Sunday Missal:** If you would like a new Sunday Missal, we have some in stock for a cost of £20.00. They can be collected from the Parish Office.

**Sad News:** The parish is very sad to hear about the death of Joan Hook who died recently. Joan will be remembered for her dedication to the work that she did within the parish.

**Mass Intentions:** Jennette Verrechia, Sarah Morley, and Aileen and Rob Allen.

## Parish Diary

15 <sup>th</sup> December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St Columba's Church.
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 12.30 pm	Start of First Holy Communion classes in St Columba's Hall.
11 <sup>th</sup> May 11 am	Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba's.
18 <sup>th</sup> May 11 am	First Communion Mass.

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