

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

First Sunday of Advent



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Christ the Alpha and Omega: Feast of Christ the King and First Sunday of Advent

Feast of Christ the King, Year C, presents a striking paradox: Jesus reigns not from a throne of gold but from the cross. His crown is of thorns, His sceptre a nail, His glory revealed in mercy. When the repentant thief prays, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom," Christ responds with the promise of paradise. This moment reveals the heart of His kingship: a reign of forgiveness, compassion, and hope.

The First Sunday of Advent, Year A, then invites us to live in readiness for that same King's return. Isaiah's vision of nations streaming to God's mountain and Paul's call to "wake from sleep" remind us that Christ's reign is not only future but already breaking into our present. The Gospel warns us that His coming will be sudden, urging us to stay awake and walk in the light.

Together, these readings form a powerful bridge: Christ reigns now in mercy, and He will come again in glory. The cross teaches us that His kingship is rooted in love, not domination. Advent teaches us that our response must be vigilance, living each day as citizens of His kingdom.

As we move from the Feast of Christ the King into Advent, we are reminded that the King we await is the same one who hung on the cross and offered paradise to a thief. His reign is already among us, and our Advent watchfulness is not anxious fear but joyful readiness. We prepare not for a distant monarch but for the merciful King who knows us, loves us, and will come again to bring us fully into His kingdom.

I wish you all a grace-filled Advent.

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 30th November			
Sunday 30 th November First Sunday in Advent	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Ann Burge (90 th Birthday)
Monday 1 st December Monday in 1st week of Advent			No Mass
Tuesday 2 nd December Tuesday in 1st week of Advent	P/E	10 am	Elaine Morley (RIP)
Wednesday 3 rd December Memorial of St Francis Xavier	C/T	10 am	Vera Devereux (Sick)
Thursday 4 th December Thursday in 1st week of Advent	P/E	10 am	Garry Heaney (Sick)
Friday 5 th December Friday in 1st week of Advent	C/T	10 am	For deceased Clergy of the Parish.
Saturday 6 th December Saturday in 1st week of Advent	C/T	10 am 10 45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 7 th December Second Sunday of Advent	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish

Responsorial Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

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

Jubilee Year 2025: During the year of the Jubilee the parish motto will be, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Rom 12:12)

Christmas Day Mass Times: The times for Masses on Christmas Day will be St. Mary Church, Castletown, at 9 am and St. Columba, Port Erin, at 11 am.

Welcome: We will welcome Canon Philip Gillespie, the Dean of the Isle of Man, on Sunday, December 7th. He will celebrate Mass in both churches, and after each Mass, he will join the parishioners for tea or coffee.

Christmas Envelopes: A Season of Giving. As we enter this festive season, I invite you to reflect on the generous support we received last year, which greatly helped our parish during the winter months. This year, the Christmas donations from the envelopes will be split evenly: half will bolster our parish, allowing it to continue its essential work, while the other half will support the Friends of the Holy Land, extending our compassion to those in need beyond our community. Let's unite in the spirit of giving and make a meaningful impact this Christmas. Your contribution, no matter the amount, can bring hope and joy to many. Thank you for your generosity!

Advent Reconciliation Service: It is for our spiritual preparation: Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The Reconciliation Service offers individuals an opportunity to reflect on their lives, seek forgiveness, and spiritually prepare for the coming of Christ. I urge you all to attend this vital service, scheduled for Thursday, 18th December, at 7 pm at St. Columba's Church.

Parish Nativity: The parish nativity this year is on Sunday, 14th December at 3 pm at St Columba's. As usual, we'd like to be as inclusive as possible. This is an invitation to all children and young people to take part. All are welcome. Invite your friends - they don't need to be parishioners to join us. The more, the merrier. Rehearsals are on Sunday, 30th November and Sunday, 7th December after the 11 am Mass, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, 13th December (time to be confirmed). We will be having a short meeting at St Columba's after the 11 am Mass on 23rd November to take names and whether they would prefer to be a narrator or actor. We can then make sure that there are parts for everyone doing what they'd prefer. If anyone can't come on November 23rd but would like to take part, please contact Deacon Graeme at 435056 (email g.easton@rcaol.org.uk) or Stella at 412740 (email stellaharris13@icloud.com) know, and we'll add you to the list.

Tent of the Meeting: Women contributed textiles for the Tent of Meeting, “Every skilled woman spun with her hands.” “All the women whose hearts were moved spun the goat hair “Exodus 35.25.26. We thank the lady who donated the Conopaeum and Antependium. God bless your hands.

Silver Jubilee Mass: Archbishop Malcolm’s Episcopal Silver Jubilee Mass which will be next Saturday, 6th December, at 12 noon at the Liverpool Cathedral. All are very welcome.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to request a Mass intention for the Christmas period, specifically for the weeks starting on 22nd December and 29th December, please ensure that you submit your intention to the office by 17th December. Thank you!

Mass Intentions: Ann Burge, Vera Devereux, Elaine Morley, Kath Gresty, and Garry Heaney.

Parish Diary

6 th December 10 am to 12 pm	Christmas wreath making class at St Columba’s Hall
14 th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba’s
Thursday 18 th December 7 pm	Reconciliation Service at St Columba’s

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.

Second Collections Until the End of the Year

14 th December	Christmas Flowers
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“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer”

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