

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

## Third Sunday of Advent



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## Advent: A Spiritual Pilgrimage - Hope, Peace and Conversion.

As we move deeper into Advent, the season leads us along a spiritual journey from Hope to Peace, guided by the Scripture readings of Year A and symbolised by the lighting of the Advent candles. On the First Sunday of Advent, we lit the Candle of Hope, reminding us that Christian hope looks forward with trust and readiness. The Gospel called us to a spirit of watchfulness as Jesus said: "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42). Like the people in the days of Noah, we can easily be absorbed in daily routines and overlook God's invitations. Hope keeps our hearts open, expectant, and alert to God's presence in the ordinary moments of life. It encourages us to remain faithful even when the world around us is uncertain or distracted.

This weekend, on the Second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace, and we hear the strong, urgent voice of John the Baptist. The Gospel proclaims: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2). John appears in the wilderness as the one who "prepares the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3), calling each of us to examine our hearts and clear away whatever blocks God's peace. True peace is not merely calmness; it is the fruit of a life turned toward God. Repentance opens the door to this peace. It straightens what has become crooked, heals what is wounded, and restores our relationship with God and with one another.

Hope and peace, therefore, go hand in hand. Hope makes us watchful for God's coming, and repentance prepares the inner space where Christ's peace can take root. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope keep us awake to God's presence, and may our conversion lead us into the deep peace Christ desires to place within every heart.

"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; prepare the way of the Lord make His paths straight".

**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 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>			
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Deceased members of the Doherty and King Family People of the Parish
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Monday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>			No Mass
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Tuesday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>	P/E	10 am	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Wednesday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Thursday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>	P/E	10 am	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Friday in 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Advent</b>	C/T	10 am	
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Saturday in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent</b>	C/T	10 am 10 45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Come, Lord, and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to proclaim 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.

**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)

**Second Collection:** There is a second collection today to gather funds for the flowers that will adorn both churches throughout the Christmas season.

**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, 18<sup>th</sup> December, at 7 pm at St. Columba's Church. There is an Advent Reconciliation service for St Mary's and St Anthony's Onchan parishes which will be held at St Anthony of Padua Onchan on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm.

**Parish Nativity:** Today will be the parish nativity today at 3 pm at St Columba's. Please come along - it's a wonderful parish celebration singing along to the fantastic Rushen Silver Band. As usual, there will be refreshments in the hall afterwards, and all food contributions are gratefully received. You are very welcome, as are any of your friends.

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

**Mass Intentions:** Mary Woodward, Doherty and King Family, Robert Jefferson, Thomas, Teresa and Oliver Lannon, Walter Gibbons, Heaney, Doyle, and Ross Family, Kayleigh Mc Andrew, John McDaid, Jim Doherty and Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart for the intention received.

## Parish Diary

Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 7 pm	Reconciliation Service at St Columba's
Christmas Day	St Mary' Church C/T: Mass at 9:00 a.m. St. Columba Church P/E: Mass at 11:00. a.m.

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.

**“Let us prepare the way for the Lord by making our hearts humble and ready to receive Him” St. Gregory the Great.**

**“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer”**

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