

# PARISH BULLETIN

## Hymns

Sheet: Longing for light

384: O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1-3)  
(Mayhew)

141: Fill my house (Keys)

514: Tell out my soul (Mayhew)

## St Kieran's, the Catholic Church in Campbeltown and Islay



Advent is the season of  
the presence and  
expectation of the eternal

*Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain*

11<sup>th</sup> December 2022

*The Third*

## *Sunday of Advent: Gaudete!*

*St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre*

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, *Gaudete Sunday of Advent*, Holy Mass, 10.00am.**

Monday: Holy Mass, 6.00m

Tuesday and Wednesday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

**Devotions: *Wednesday*:** Mid-morning Prayer, 9.50am.

***Friday*:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Mid-morning Prayer, 9.30am.

***Scripture discussion: Friday*** 10.30am

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, *Rorate Mass*, 6.00pm**

**Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*, Holy Mass, 10.00am.**

*St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Bridgend, Islay*

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December, Holy Mass, 1pm**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Nuptial Mass, 12pm**

### ***Psalm response***

*Come, Lord, and save us.*

### ***Gospel acclamation***

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

*He has sent me to bring 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.*



## Take Five

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*

**Monday, Dec 12, 2022**

### OPTIONAL MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

#### We're good enough for God

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego in December 1531 is reminiscent of the appearance of the angel Gabriel to Mary. Juan and the young Mary were both understandably overwhelmed by what was asked of them. In the Gospel of Luke, Mary is “greatly troubled at what was said.” According to later accounts, Juan told Our Lady to pick someone of higher standing as messenger, since he was a “man of no importance.” But by accepting the challenge, a Jewish peasant girl became the Mother of God, and an indigenous Mexican persevered in getting a church built in Our Lady’s honour. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City is the most-visited Catholic shrine in the world. Think you’re not good enough for God’s plan? Trust that God equips us all for what we’re called to do.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Matthew 23:21-27.* “What authority do you have for acting like this?”

**Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022**

### MEMORIAL OF SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN, MARTYR

#### Follow the light

Lucy, whose name means “light,” is a great saint for these darkening days of Advent. Her name and example personify the “light” mentioned throughout the Bible, not only Isaiah’s promises of a future messiah — “people who walk in darkness will see a great light” — but Jesus, who called himself the “Light of the World”, while also calling us the same. Scandinavian celebrations of Lucy, with a crown of candles on her head, remind us that she fed persecuted Christians hiding in the catacombs, affixing candles to her head in order to use both hands to serve. How will you be a light to the world today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32.* “Take refuge in the name of the Lord.”

**Wednesday, Dec 14, 2022**

### MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, CARMELITE PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

#### In the darkness, a great light

One of multiple doctors of the church celebrated this month, Saint John of the Cross was a renowned priest and friar in Spain, descended from a line of “conversos” (Iberian Jewish converts to Catholicism). A contemporary of another Carmelite saint, Teresa of Ávila, John was, like her, a mystic whose writings have lived far beyond his own lifetime as classics of European literature. His seminal work, the poem “Dark Night of the Soul,” is the basis of a widely held tenant of spirituality involving spiritual distress as a part of searching and growth. (We all have our “dark nights of the soul.”) His “Ascent of Mount Carmel” is likewise widely revered. In this season of holy joy as we celebrate the approach of the Messiah, may we likewise honor the legacy of the humble Catholic friar of Jewish descent whose profound and mystical faith has inspired millions the world over.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23.* “And Jesus said to them in reply, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard.’”

**Thursday, Dec 15, 2022**

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

#### The greatest gifts are priceless

The tradition of Christmas gift-giving can be uncomfortable for those wanting to take seriously Catholic teaching about the environment and consumerism. Fortunately, more and more people are open to alternatives: gifts of time or special skills, gifts made from household items, gifts to charitable causes in loved ones’ names. How can you celebrate creatively, in keeping with the spirit of Christmas?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30.* “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John.”

**Friday, Dec 16, 2022**

### ADVENT WEEKDAY

#### Truly right and just

The prophet Isaiah tells the Israelites to “observe what is right, do what is just.” No easy task, often leading us to ask for some guidance. Fortunately, Jesus showed us the way. As we await the celebration of Christ’s coming, take a moment to ponder some of the examples of right and just living Jesus gave us, such as caring for outcasts, being a healing presence,

praying, evangelizing, and forgiving. Simply put, follow Christ's advice to love God and your neighbour as yourself and to count your blessings, and let Christ take care of the rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 56:1-3a, 6-8; John 5:33-36*. "These works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me."

**Saturday, Dec 17, 2022**

**ADVENT WEEKDAY (O WISDOM)**

**Dip into God's wisdom**

Today we begin the recitation of the O Antiphons. The Church sings these seven lines during evening prayers (vespers) on the last

seven days of Advent, and also uses them as the Alleluia Verse during the daily Mass. Each antiphon is a title for Christ taken from the Book of Isaiah. They go back to an unknown source some 1,500 years ago in medieval Europe, and all begin with "O," thus known as the "O Antiphons." Take an opportunity today to connect to this ancient tradition by enjoying sung versions and explanations of the antiphons on the internet, starting with today's antiphon, O Wisdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17*. "The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice."

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## *Readings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Gaudete!*

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**Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

It's springtime in the desert, a time of wonder for the unfortunate.

**Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

Note in a bottle: Lord, come and save us!

**James 5:7-10**

Farmers are patient for the harvest, and so are the faithful of God.

**Matthew 11:2-11**

Even John isn't sure of Jesus: Where's the Messiah movement?

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### *Words on the Word: Isaiah 11:1-10*

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**Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

"Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy". Wilderness, dry-lands and wasteland is a good description of the interior "life" of many people. And add to it weakened hands and weary knees – from constant chasing and care. Sometimes we are close to doubting whether anything creative and beautiful will come out of this. And yet the wilderness landscape can become a place of new creation, a place where beautiful flowers grow. Only there's one condition, that God is admitted there. Isaiah rightly reminds of complying to the temptation of doubt: "Courage! Do not be afraid" (Is 35:4). God truly is the creator, and therefore calls into existence from nothing! How often we fall into pettiness, how we fail to appreciate God . . . Allow that the strong assurance of Isaiah, that

"He is coming to save you", will arouse hope in you.

**Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

"It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger". The psalmist lists various difficult situations, in which people are sometimes imprisoned: being oppressed, hungry, in prison, being in darkness, bowed down, an orphan or a widow, in other words individuals who have no support and help from other people. Even if physically we do not now experience such events, we often feel like people in similar circumstances. Try to realise which of these situations in your internal sense are close to you, which you most often experience. If it seems to us that we are self-sufficient and

content, and hang onto this illusion, God cannot become our Saviour. For the Messiah to come to you, you have to be conscious that you need Him, that is to name your poverty and begin in its depth to call to God. Then not only will you theoretically know that a Saviour exists somewhere, but a space will form so that His power will appear.

### **James 5:7-10**

“Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord’s coming will be soon”. Sometimes we meet a person who says that they have had enough of waiting for the coming God into their lives, for His saving action in illness, stress, the hardships of relationships, the worsening conditions of life. The waiting becomes unbearable among the others when we don’t notice and value the fruits which they themselves bring. Whereas if practiced with trust, they form in a person a valuable attitude, important for living faith: and bring a deep desire and longing as well as an attitude

of perseverance and mindfulness. On its own interior expectation transforms us. This is why the apostle James encourages us to patience. If our sense of expectation is extended then it may be that we should become transformed “reworked” through the power of expectation.

### **Matthew 11:2-11**

“John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ ”. Saint John the Baptist lived entirely in the great Promise of God. He announced it in his life and words. However, this does not mean that he managed to clearly identify its fulfilment. He needed confirmation. A person can never envisage how specifically God realises what He promised. One thing is certain: He does it in a way totally exceeding human expectations, in a surprising way. It is not a surprise which brings disillusion, but which leads to a state of amazement and captivation by the abundant mystery of Divine grace. And in an eloquent way teaches us this mysterious incarnation of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity.

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## Rorate

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The Rorate Mass takes its name from the opening words of the Entrance Antiphon, which comes to us from Isaiah 45:8:

*“Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant justum, aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem.”*

“Drop down dew, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain the just: let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.”

The Rorate Mass is lit only by candlelight, principally in the Sanctuary, the holy place because of the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. In the dimly lit setting, the priest and faithful prepare to honour the Light of the World, Who is soon to be born, and brings the light to our dimly lit lives. We offer praise to God for the gift of Our Lady, who like us awaited His birth.



The readings and prayers of the Mass foretell the prophecy of the Virgin who would bear a Son called Emmanuel and call on all to raise the gates of their hearts and their communities to let Christ the King enter; asking for the grace to receive eternal life by the merits of the Incarnation and saving Resurrection of Our Lord.

***Spiritually, Advent is the dawn. It is still not the bright light of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for something exceedingly joyful that is yet to come. It is a time of penance, when our souls are still struggling through the darkness, seeking the Light. There is a longing***

**and expectancy in Advent. Our candles and lanterns at a Rorate Mass are symbols of our longing for the coming of the Saviour whose light is already dawning**

Prepare yourself by adding to your daily prayers this prayer to Our Lady:

*O Mother of our Advent, be with us and see to it that He will remain with us in this difficult Advent of the struggles for truth and hope, for justice and peace: He, alone, Emmanuel.*

If you have a small lantern bring it with you to light your way. You may wish to use a small torch to help you read the hymns and prayers.

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## Prayer

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**Please pray for those who are sick, in need or have asked for our prayers:** Madge McWhirter, Sarah Carmichael, Catherine Walker, Ailsa Stewart, Meg Douglas (Mull), Doleen Durnin, and Russell Carroll.

**Please remember in your prayers Patrick Brannigan (2010) and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

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## News and Events

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**Tea and coffee** in the hall after Sunday Mass. Our visitors are most welcome, please come along.

**Rorate** – a light comes into the darkness. The Mass will be the Vigil Mass next Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please bring along your own lantern or light, if you wish.

**Seasonal Liturgies:** Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> (Vigil) *Rorate*, 6.00pm; Christmas Eve, Vigil Mass, 9.00pm; Christmas Day, 10.00am (Blessing of the Tree at the *Rorate* Mass; Blessing of the Crib at the Christmas Eve Mass).

**Live streaming** – on [Zoom](#) will continue on weekdays but not on Sundays. (Facebook streaming continues as before, see below for link).



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[www.stkieranscampbeltown.org](http://www.stkieranscampbeltown.org)



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