

# PARISH BULLETIN

## Hymns

Sheet: Come, thou long-expected Jesus

384: O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1-4)  
(Irwin)

381: O bread of heaven

Sheet: For Mary, mother of our Lord

## 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*

18<sup>th</sup> December 2022

*The Fourth*

## *Sunday of Advent*

*St. Kieran's, Campbeltown, Kintyre*

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

Monday: Holy Mass, 6.00m

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: Holy Mass, 10.00am

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

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

**Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, Shepherd's Vigil Mass,** 9.00pm

**Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day,** Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, 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**

*Let the Lord enter!*

*He is the King of glory*

### **Gospel acclamation**

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,  
a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.*

*Alleluia!*

### **Communion Antiphon**

*Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.*

## Take Five

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

**Monday, Dec 19, 2022**

### **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O FLOWER OF JESSE'S STEM)**

#### **Cherish your roots**

Today's O Antiphon — "O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!" — invites us to meditate on the theme of Jesus' genealogy and our spiritual ancestry. Jesse was the father of King David, and God told the prophet Nathan that David's royal family would last forever. Jesus is the enduring branch that grows out of the root of Jesse, the fulfilment of a hope past and present. When we belong to Christ, we belong to the rest of the tree, too — a family that includes God and humanity. Christmas brings people together, biologically related or not — let the longing of this season bond you closer to all in love.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25. "He will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God."*

**Tuesday, Dec 20, 2022**

### **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KEY OF DAVID)**

#### **Be free**

Freedom is talked about, laws are passed, and it is protested for. But what is freedom? Some definitions seem watery: We want to do as we like without restrictions. We want Mum or the government or the Church off our backs. A better sense of liberty is the capacity to become more than the sum of our givens. The imprint of divine nature distinguishes us: makes us self-creators, re-inventors, transcendents of present circumstances. We pray for the right key to unlock our best selves: "O Key of David, come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38. "Listen, O house of David!"*

**Wednesday, Dec 21, 2022**

### **COMMEMORATION OF SAINT PETER CANISIUS, PRIEST, DOCTOR (O RADIANT DAWN)**

#### **May calmer minds prevail**

Saint Peter Canisius is remembered for being the calm voice in the midst of a storm. For Catholics in 16th-century northern Europe, the storm was the Protestant Reformation. While most partisans on both side of the divide used strident words and sometimes violent actions, Peter called for reason. Rejecting the inflamed

rhetoric against Protestants that was coming from his associates, he said, "With words like these, we don't cure patients, we make them incurable." Think twice before you criticize those who see things differently. Keep the dialogue open.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-45. "O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice, come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death!"*

**Thursday, Dec 22, 2022**

### **ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)**

#### **Picture this**

For modern subjects of a kingdom who consider themselves more as citizens, the O Antiphon for today, "O King of All Nations," might be less than compelling. The image of God or Jesus as "king" comes from the prevailing social structures 2,000 years ago. Centuries of church-monarchy unity in Europe and elsewhere kept the tradition going. Contemporary Catholics can understand the power and authority of kingship, but God's tenderness and mercy can be side-lined by this term, which leads to a good question for any disciple: What is your image of God? What helps you connect with the Divine?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56. "The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."*

**Friday, Dec 23, 2022**

### **COMMEMORATION OF SAINT JOHN KĘTY, PRIEST (O EMMANUEL)**

#### **Rejoice, rejoice!**

The "O Emmanuel" antiphon heralds the conclusion of Advent. It also conveys a powerful truth about how we experience the divine. Failure doesn't have to be a deal-breaker. What happens when you're a good person and try your hardest — but things still don't work out? Ask Saint John Cantius (1390-1473), also known as John Kęty. A devout person, humble, generous, and a good teacher, his students and later his parishioners admired him. Faculty politics, however, forced him out of his university position, and he didn't do very well at his next job as a parish priest. Yet while

he was still alive, people considered him a saint. At times your best efforts may not meet with the outward signs of success, but in the eyes of God and people of good will they are always worth it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66. "Yes, he is coming."*

**Saturday, Dec 24, 2022**

**ADVENT WEEKDAY**

**Forgiveness under the tree**

If you haven't finished your Christmas shopping by now, you're toast (at least according to consumer culture). The best you can hope for now is forgiveness. Which is exactly what this day and this night are all about. Zechariah's

Benedictus in today's Gospel (which takes its name from the first words in Latin — *Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel*, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel") reflects God's eternal plan of deliverance: "To give His people knowledge of Salvation by the forgiveness of their sins." The best present you can give anybody, tonight or ever, is the forgiveness of their sins. Today is the perfect day to give this perfect gift!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79. "To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins."*

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## *Readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

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**Isaiah 7:10-14**

God offers a sign of promise King Ahaz is afraid to accept.



**Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6**

The Creator has claim to everything: earth, mountains, seas—and inhabitants.

**Romans 1:1-7**

Saint Paul introduces himself to the Christians in Rome who share the call to be holy.

**Matthew 1:18-24**

Joseph, a righteous man, has to make a hard decision regarding his betrothed. An angel helps out.

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## *Words on the Word: Matthew 1:18-24*

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Saint Joseph awoke from his dream. "He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him." Those words could very well describe much of his life. Joseph, though, was not blindly obedient. He was an observant and thoughtful person. The challenge for him was not whether to obey God but to find the best way to do it. Even while the basic instructions were clear, he still deliberated his course of action and even changed it when necessary—much as, unknown to him at that point, his wife Mary had already done in her own encounter with an angel. As Advent draws to a close, promise yourself to follow Joseph's example of faith, attentiveness, intelligence, mercifulness, and courage as you make your own decisions.

# Why (and How) to Return to Sunday Mass

**Why go?** God wants you to! God tells us to keep holy the Sabbath and the holy days.

**But I don't have to go to Mass to pray.** Yes, you can pray anywhere. But the Mass is the Church's greatest prayer. Christians cannot be Christian alone: we need other people, and above all we need God. The Mass is when we worship God together and receive Jesus in the Eucharist — the "source and summit of the Christian life."

**I'm angry with the Church.** Unfortunately, many people feel this way, especially due to the scandals. The Church is made up of flawed people, but the Church belongs to Christ, first and foremost. Even the Apostles failed Christ; they deserted Him, yet in the end all (except John) willingly entered into glorious martyrdom, and in a way the Church is similar; made up of flawed humans but even so directing people to glory.

**I don't feel any different after Mass.** The heart often changes slowly, but it *does* convert. Strive to focus on each part of the Mass: the songs, the prayers, the readings — and, most importantly, the Eucharist.

Even if the homily isn't enlightening or the music is not to your liking, Jesus offers you His body and blood. He will change you.

**I'm too busy.** Sunday Mass is one hour of your week. It should be the best hour of your week.

**I don't feel worthy.** No one is. That's why we need Mass and confession, where Christ offers Himself and His healing to us.

## BEFORE

**Arrive on time or be early. Then you will have time to prepare your heart to receive God's word and his body.**

## AFTER

**Pray after Communion. Reflect on the homily. Pray about recent concerns or decisions. Thank God for the gift of Himself in the Eucharist**

## Prayer



**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** Mary McAllister (2019) **and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.**

## News and Events

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

**Seasonal Liturgies:** Christmas Eve, The Shepherd's Vigil Mass, 9.00pm; Christmas Day, 10.00am (Blessing of the Crib at the Christmas Eve Mass).

**Thanks to all** for their help and support in the preparations for a holy and joyful celebration of Christmas. Everyone's contribution no matter how great or small is greatly appreciated.

**Live streaming** – on Facebook (see below for link).



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



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