

Saint Mary's Newsletter: December

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 027 8243850

Vicars Warden: John Heaton 022 107562



SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2025

Sunday 7th:

10am Advent 2 Holy Communion

Refreshments: Melanie

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Melanie

Sunday 14th:

10am Advent 3 Holy Communion

Refreshments: Majella

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Majella

Sunday 21th:

10am Advent 4 Holy Communion

Refreshments: Trish

Readings: Charles

Intercessions: Trish

Wednesday 24th:

11pm Christmas Midnight Mass



DEC 28th 2025 to JAN 25th 2026: Please note that there will be no services between these dates. Services will resume from Sun 1st Feb 2025.



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful
Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

ADVENT: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!" This familiar hymn reminds the church of the season of Advent, a time traditionally marked for remembering the years of preparation and consecration prior to the coming of the Messiah. For many centuries, the Church has identified the beginning of the Christmas celebration with a time of reflection and expectation called Advent. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival" and, when used in conjunction with Christmas, reminds us of the anticipation and expectation held over hundreds of years by the people of Israel for their Messiah and promised King. For centuries before Christ, Hebrew rabbis methodically and passionately taught the Jewish people that Messiah was coming. They taught that the people should be ready to embrace their King when he appeared. They emphasized the need for holy living and obedience to God's law. This explains how the lowliest shepherds and fishermen of that day were acquainted with the promises of a Messiah. This season of preparation was all by God's design.

We mark Advent in the Christian church with the display of a wreath - its circle reminds us of God Himself, eternal and endlessly merciful. It is evergreen - reminding us of the hope of eternal life. The four outer candles represent the time of waiting and preparation for the Messiah during the four Sundays of Advent. The light of the candles reminds us of the Light of world, and the prophetic promise of His coming. The central candle of the Advent wreath, lighted at Christmas, reminds us of the fulfilment of His first Advent and the pure, humble means by which He came.



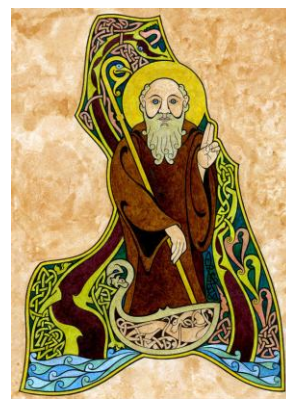
A Prayer for this month:

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infants cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in his radiance.



This Month in Christian History:

Dec 7th 521: Birth of Columba, Irish Celtic priest and the "apostle of Scotland". In 563 he left his native Ireland and set up a monastery on Iona Island. From there he sent missionaries out to modern day Holland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Italy! He later made forays to Scotland where he won the native pagan Pict tribe, to the Faith.



ARTWORK BY DANIEL MITSUI
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Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!