

**Parish of Bright Bulletin**  
**Second Sunday of Advent 8th December 2024**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter O’Kane  
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**Mass Times: Week Beginning Monday 9th December**

<i>St Patrick’s, Legamaddy</i>	<i>St Joseph’s, Killough</i>
9th Dec Monday 10am	10th Dec Tuesday 10am
13th Dec Friday 7.30pm	11th Dec Wednesday 7.30pm
15th Dec Sunday 10.00am	14th Dec Saturday 10.00am
	14th Dec Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Rossglass  
12th Dec Thursday 10.00

**Faithful Departed**

Anniversaries: Bill Power, Mairead Mageean, Paul McGeown, May McCullough

**Weekly Confessions**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available: after all weekday Masses; and in St Joseph’s every Wednesday 8.00pm-8.45pm and at 6.00pm before the Saturday Vigil Mass; and in St Patrick’s every Friday 8.00pm-8.45pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration**

St Joseph’s, Killough every Wednesday:  
1.30pm-7.30pm and after Mass from 8.00pm-9.00pm.  
St Patrick’s, Legamaddy every Friday:  
6.30pm-7.30pm and after Mass from 8.00pm-9.00pm.

**Preparation for Christmas:** A Penitential Service with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place in St Patrick’s Church, Downpatrick on Sunday 8th Dec at 5.00pm. Local priests will be available for Confession.

**Inter-Church Carol Service** will take place in St Joseph’s Church, Killough on Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm. Refreshments afterwards in Killough Youth and Community Hall.

**SVP Christmas Appeal** will take place at all Masses this weekend 7/8th Dec. Please give as generously as you can! Thank you!

**Christmas Coffee Morning:** Bright GAC warmly welcomes the local community to Bright Community Centre on Sunday 8th Dec from 11.00am to 3.00pm for coffee/tea/hot chocolate, mince pies, etc and Bright festive cheer!

**St John Paul II Guide to a Fruitful Advent**

‘At times, Advent can be a difficult season in which to remain focused. We may be distracted by a flurry of obligations or simply by the commercial nature of the Christmas season.

The good news is that the Church has a rich treasury of resources that can help you keep the spirit of Advent alive in your heart.

One such treasure is the vast number of homilies and audiences of St. John Paul II. He spoke eloquently each year about the Advent season, and left us many insightful reflections to guide us on our Advent journey.

First of all, St. John Paul II urges us to devote ourselves to prayer:

“Preparing ourselves to receive Jesus requires first and foremost an attitude of intense and trusting prayer. Making room for Jesus in our hearts demands a serious commitment to convert to his love.”

Secondly, we need to repair the division in the world by sowing peace with our neighbour:

“We should be converted to peace; we should be converted to Christ, our peace, certain that his disarming love in the crib overcomes every dire threat and plan for violence. With confidence we need to continue to ask the Child, born of the Virgin Mary for us, that the enormous energy of his peace might drive out the hatred and revenge that lurk in the human soul. Let us ask God that the good and our love might overcome evil.”

Another pathway to a fruitful Advent is through our faithful obedience to God’s will in our lives:

“Mary guides us towards Bethlehem. Mary is the Woman of the “yes” who, contrary to Eve, makes the plan of God her own without reservation. Thus she becomes a clear light for our steps and the highest model for our inspiration.”

Last of all, we should use Advent to prepare not only for Christ’s birth in our hearts, but also for his Second Coming:

“The exhortation to be watchful resounds many times in the liturgy, especially in Advent, a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but also for Christ’s definitive and glorious coming at the end of time. It invites the believer to spend every day and every moment in the presence of the One “who is and who was and who is come” (Rv 1:4), to whom the future of the world and of man belongs. This is Christian hope! Without this prospect, our existence would be reduced to living for death.”

(By Philip Kosloski)