



Our Lady of the Assumption

St. Mary's, Viewfield Sq., Portree, Isle of Skye,
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3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A
15TH DECEMBER 2019

Mass Times:

Sunday:

Portree
Sunday 10 am

Dornie
Sunday 12:45 pm

Broadford:
Sunday 3pm

Monday
10:30am Portree

Tuesday
10:30am Portree

Wednesday
(PHS - Worship
Service)

Thursday
10:30am Portree

Friday
10:30am Portree

Saturday
01:00pm Portree

Collection:

Banked- £285.00

Welcome: To our visitors and everyone please join us for tea/coffee after Mass at the back. If you are a UK tax payer, kindly take one of the white Gift Aid envelopes from the porch and fill it in. Thank you.

Feasts this week (No Feast This Week)

The Word: Rejoice He Is Near!

The opening antiphon of the mass today from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:4-5) says, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. The Lord is near". The Advent period is when we look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The period challenges us to undertake three primary activities, preparation, penance, and prayer, but this Sunday adds one more thing; rejoicing! Is there any distinction between joy and happiness? why do we have to rejoice instead of being happy? At this point, there would be a need for us to define happiness and joy. Both come with excitement but they differ from their sources, intensity, and durability. Happiness comes from something that is outside of the individual; or put in another way, the cause of one's happiness is always external. One can be excited when he gets a Christmas gift. Joy, on the other hand, is a facility that is within us; in other words, it is internal. While happiness could be strong, joy is stronger and more intense. Happiness builds on circumstances, which means, it could change when the circumstances that brought it change. Joy, on the other hand, is a divine orchestration, therefore, it comes out of "God-stance," not on any circumstance. St. Paul tells us that joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:26). Furthermore, happiness is by coincidence of chance, but joy is by a convinced choice in God. At the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we hear that the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord (John 20:20). Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us also that the excitement in heaven is out joy, for instance, when one sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10). Therefore, on this day let us connect with our inner selves to feel the joy God has put in us and never allow nor permit any ugly circumstances of life you might be passing through at this material time to rob you of this internal joy.

Weekly Notices:

(1) The Island chorus will have a repeat of the successful 2018 Vivaldi concert in Portree. The concert programme will include the full Vivaldi's Gloria Suite, Handel's Halleluia Chorus, Mozart's Lacrimosa, and Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus featuring a lot of musicians- On Tuesday 17th December 7:30 @ St Mary's Church, Portree .

(2) Christmas Masses: Dornie- Vigil 8pm; Broadford 10am; Portree 11:30am. There will be 15mins Christmas Carols before each of the Mass time.

(3) Thank you for helping to make my movements to Dornie and Broadford for Masses much easier. I appreciate your sacrifice. The list of volunteers is at the back of the church.

(4) I am always available for confessions. Please make your advent/christmas confession

Nugget of Wisdom :

To rejoice in temporal comforts is dangerous, to rejoice in self is foolish, to rejoice in sin is fatal, but to rejoice in God is heavenly – Charles Spurgeon.

Quote:

"If you have no joy there is a leak in your Christianity somewhere" – Billy Sunday