**St. Mary’s & St. Columba’s Parish Newsletter**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Email:**  [stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk)

**Phone:** 01624 822272

**Website:** [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**Parish Priest:** Father Joseph Kiganda, CSSp

Fr Dennis T. Ortese-Yiye CSSp (Asst. P/P St Mary’s Douglas)

**Deacons:** Rev. Alan Molloy a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk

Rev. Graeme Easton [g.easton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:g.easton@rcaol.org.uk)

**The Eucharist – Source and Summit of Our Faith**

Dear Parish Family,

This weekend, we gather with Aila, Benjamin, Bethany, Loba, Jack, and Toby as they receive their first Holy Communion. This moment is a significant milestone in their faith journey, as they partake in the Eucharist for the first time. The Eucharist is not just a ritual but the living heart of our faith, where Christ gives Himself completely—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.

St. John Paul II wrote: “The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. This truth does not simply express a daily experience of faith but recapitulates the heart of the mystery of the Church.” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia, 1). In every Mass, we experience unity—not just with Jesus, but with each other. The Eucharist creates a bond stronger than blood, forming a communion that makes us one Body in Christ. It serves as our spiritual sustenance, especially when life feels overwhelming and reminds us that we are part of a loving community.

Pope Benedict XVI emphasized: “The Eucharist opens us to an understanding of Scripture, just as it opened the eyes of the disciples at Emmaus. Thus, it becomes the school of life, in which we learn to live not for ourselves but for others.” (Sacramentum Caritatis, 90). The Eucharist calls us out of selfishness and into service, transforming us to reflect the love and compassion of Christ.

Pope Francis reminds us: “The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.” (Evangelii Gaudium, 47). Each of us comes to the altar with various burdens and joys, and in that sacred moment of Communion, Christ assures us, “I am with you.”

The Eucharist is a precious gift that heals, strengthens, and sends us to be Christ’s presence in the world. As we celebrate Mass this weekend, let us approach the Eucharist with grateful hearts. Remembering that in this sacrament, Heaven touches Earth, and we are never alone.

As we celebrate Aila, Benjamin, Bethany, Loba, Jack, and Toby’s first Holy Communion, let us remember that it reaffirms our shared faith in God. May the Eucharist inspire us to spread Christ’s love and compassion to all. United in Him, we rejoice in this journey together.

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**Fr Joseph**

Please find below details of this week’s Mass intentions and other services in our Parish of St. Mary’s, Castletown (C/T), and St. Columba’s, Port Erin (P/E).

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| **Week commencing 18th May** | | | |
| Sunday 18th May  **Fifth Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Don Anderson (RIP) |
| Monday 19th May  **Monday week five of Easter** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 20th May  **Tuesday week five of Easter** | P/E | 10 am | Requiem Mass for Kevin Baran |
| Wednesday 21st May  **Wednesday week five of Easter** | C/T | 10 am | For a sick person in hospital |
| Thursday 22nd May  **Thursday week five of Easter** | P/E | 10 am  10.45 am | Ellen Travis (Ann)  Confession |
| Friday 23rd May  **Friday week five of Easter** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 24th May  **Saturday week five of Easter** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 25th May  **Sixth Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Lucy Gresty (Ann) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

I will bless your name for ever, my God and King.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

A new commandant I give you, says the Lord,

That you love one another, just as I have loved you.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia

**Jubilee Year 2025:** During the year of the Jubilee the parish motto will be, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” (Rom 12:12)

**Offertory Collection:** Last week the offertory collection was £214.97. Priests’ Training fund £236.38. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**First Communion:** We extend a warm welcome and heartfelt congratulations to the six children who will receive their First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 18th. We would also like to express our gratitude to the catechists—Rachel, Lydia, and Julie—as well as to the parents who have provided invaluable encouragement and support throughout their preparation.

**Installation of new Archbishop:** Archbishop John Sherrington will be installed at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at noon on Tuesday, May 27th. He will also be installed into his seat at the Co-Cathedral Church of St. Mary of the Isle during a special service at 2pm on Tuesday, June 10th. On that day, we hope all roads on the Isle of Man will lead to St. Mary’s of the Isle to welcome and greet Archbishop John Sherrington.

**Eucharistic Ministers:** All Eucharistic Ministers are requested to attend a meeting on Tuesday 10th June at 7pm at St Columba’s Hall**.**

**Mass Intentions:** Louise Heaney, Lucy Gresty,Don Anderson, Ellen Travis, and a sick person in hospital.

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**Parish Diary**

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| 17th - 24th May | Praying The Keeills Week |
| 10th June  7 pm | Eucharistic Ministers meeting at St Columba Hall |
| 14th June  10 am | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill. The theme is “The Psalms” with Kiran Wimberley. |
| 26th July  Time to be announced | Concert at St. Columba’s with Rushen Silver Band and Castleford Young Musicians. |
| 16th August  Afternoon | Procession and open-air Mass at Rushen Abbey. |
| 13th September  7 pm to 9.30 pm | Parish Barn Dance at St Columba’s Hall. |
| 14th December  3 pm | Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba’s. |

If you have any thoughts on how we can celebrate the Jubilee Year as a parish, please talk to Deacon Alan or Graeme. If you are aware of future events, please let us know so we may add them to the diary. Social Club Committee contact details: Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867.

Second collections until the end of September

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| 1st June | World Communications |
| 15th June | Day for Life |
| 29th June | Peter’s Pence |
| 20th July | Priests in Retirement |
| 14th September | Catholic Education |
| 21st September | Evangelii Gaudium |

**“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer”**

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