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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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**The ‘In-between’ Time – A Time of Discernment**

We have celebrated the Easter Tridium and 35 days have already passed since the culmination of that wonderful event i.e. our salvation was fulfilled! Indeed, since then, we have had the death and funeral of Pope Francis and the installation of Pope Leo XIV. We have nearly arrived at the end of the Easter period, with the Ascension this coming Thursday and then Pentecost. We are, if you will, at the ‘in-between’ time of those two great times or pinnacles in our faith calendar. Time to catch our breath. Time perhaps for a short interlude, a chance for discernment.

What do I mean? Well, it is good to have a little time to set aside our busy schedules, to give ourselves a quiet moment to ‘think’ rather than ‘do’. Perhaps two of our Evangelists: Mark and John, are good examples of how some of the Apostles dealt with or understood the Jesus ‘event’ in their lives.

Mark accompanied Peter to Rome where he wrote his Gospel quickly, in a rush, as he feared that they might not live long enough to pass on the story of their time with Jesus and His works and message before they were arrested and executed. John on the other hand was fortunate to live much longer before writing his Gospel, decades later. He used that time to contemplate who Jesus truly was, what He represented; what His coming, His teaching, His actions really meant for us. John wanted to fully understand and share with us the meaning of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, as well as the events and actions recounted in his Gospel. John had the time and opportunity to discern the meaning of Jesus’ incarnation - which he shared with us in his Gospel.

We have witnessed the events of Easter, the story of how the Apostles reacted to and, initially, did not comprehend the events of that great event. Thern, slowly, discernment occurred. After incomprehension, they acknowledged Jesus as their – our – Saviour. John understood God’s message, God’s love for us. He spent decades in contemplation. He summarised it perfectly by declaring: God is Love. It is that simple.

John’s Gospel is a beautiful insight into the story of Jesus’ incarnation, His works, His message and its meaning. We are blessed to have the four Gospels but privileged to have John’s set out for us the simple but extraordinary fact that God loves each and every one of us. God loves me. Perhaps this is the perfect time to take a moment to discern that message, its meaning for us, in our (daily) lives.

**Deacon Alan**

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 25th May** | | | |
| Sunday 25th May  **Sixth Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Lucy Gresty (Ann) |
| Monday 26th May  **Memorial of St. Philip Neri** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 27th May  **Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury** | P/E | 10 am | No Mass |
| Wednesday 28th May  **Wednesday week six of Easter** | C/T | 10 am | No Mass |
| Thursday 29th May  **Solemnity** **of the Ascension of the Lord** | P/E | 7 pm | Heather DeBacker 9RIP) |
| Friday 30th May  **Friday week six of Easter** | C/T | 10 am | No Mass |
| Saturday 31st May  **Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | C/T | 10 am | No Mass |
| Sunday 1st June  **Seventh Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Person sick in hospital |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Let the people praise you, O God;

let all the people praise you

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord,

and my father will love him, and we will come to him.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

If you love me, keep my commandments says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete to abide with you for ever, 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 £275.21   Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Second Collection:** Next Sunday there will be a second collection for World Communications.

**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. Catholics from across the Island are invited. The Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer will be joined by Isle of Man Government dignitaries and civic leaders along with ecumenical guests from the Island’s Christian churches. The ceremony will be followed by a reception. For catering purposes, it is essential that you let us know if you are coming by emailing essential that you by emailing, [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) by 31 May 2025. We will be charged per head, so names and exact numbers are required.

**Solemnity** **of the Ascension of the Lord**: Please note as Thursday 29th May is a Holy Day of Obligation, there will be a Mass at St Columba’s at 7pm.There will be no weekday Masses this week as Fr. Joseph and Fr. Dennis are on retreat.

**Barn Dance Social evening:** Barn Dance Social Evening on Saturday 13th September. Brendan McLaughlin will provide the music, and Carol Hayes will call the dances. This will be a faith supper so please bring a plate to share and your own cold drinks. Fancy dress optional. We are limited to 50 people in the hall, so if you would like to secure a ticket, please contact any social club member after church. Cost £2.50 adults and £1 children.

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

**Mass Intentions:** Barry Smith, Robert Preston, Heather DeBacker, Lucy Gresty, and person sick in hospital.

**Parish Diary**

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| 10th June  2 pm | Installation of Archbishop John Sherrington to his seat at Co-Cathedral Church of St. Mary Douglas |
| 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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