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

**Third Sunday of Easter**

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**The Upcoming Papal Conclave**

As we mourn the passing and burial of Pope Francis, a shepherd of immense compassion and wisdom, we are reminded of his pivotal role in guiding the Catholic Church with a spirit of love and humility. Considering this transition, we look ahead to the upcoming papal conclave, a crucial and sacred event that will shape the future of our Church.

The conclave, set to begin on 7th May 2025 in the historic Sistine Chapel, will gather all cardinal electors under 80 years. These esteemed leaders of our Church will take a solemn oath to uphold the integrity of the election process, ensuring that it remains confidential and free from outside influence. With this oath, they commit to discern the candidate they believe prayerfully is genuinely worthy of leading the Church into its next chapter.

During the conclave, the cardinal electors will enter a time of seclusion, removing themselves from the outside world's distractions. This period of reflection and prayer, underscored by our collective prayers as a parish community, will be crucial as the cardinals engage in multiple rounds of secret voting. Each day may involve up to four ballots—two in the morning and two in the afternoon—until a candidate receives the necessary two-thirds majority vote.

Should a candidate not achieve this majority, the process may pause, allowing the cardinals time to meditate and seek divine guidance. At this crucial juncture, our prayers as a parish community will become increasingly vital, supporting each cardinal as they seek to fulfil their sacred responsibility. Your prayers are not just a formality, but an integral part of this process.

Once a candidate is elected, he will be asked to accept his new role and choose his name. The moment of announcement is thrilling—the burning of the ballots will reveal white smoke rising from the Sistine Chapel chimney, signalling a successful election. We will then hear the joyful proclamation, “Habemus Papam!” (“We have a pope!”), marking the beginning of a new leadership era for our Church. The anticipation and excitement of this moment will fill our hearts with joy.

As this momentous occasion approaches, let us pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance upon the cardinal electors. May they find clarity and wisdom in their decision-making, leading us to a new pope who embodies love, justice, and service at the heart of the Gospel.

Take the prayer card with you and pray for the successor of Pope Francis.

**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 4th May** | | | |
| Sunday 4th May  **Third Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish |
| Monday 5th May  **Monday week three of Easter** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 6th May  **Tuesday week three of Easter** | P/E | 10 am | Elaine Morley (RIP) |
| Wednesday 7th May  **Wednesday week three of Easter** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 8th May  **Thursday week three of Easter** | P/E | 10 am  10.45 am | Louise Heaney (RIP)  Confession |
| Friday 9th May  **Friday week three of Easter** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 10th May  **Saturday week three of Easter** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 11th May  **Fourth Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Heather De Backer (RIP) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

Christ is risen, who created all things

and has shown compassion on the human race.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, 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 £283.84. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Second Collection:** There will be a second collection next Sunday for the Priest Training Fund.

**Thank You**: We want to extend our heartfelt thanks once again to everyone who contributed to the success of our recent gathering. Your hard work and dedication made a significant difference, and we are truly grateful for your support. We look forward to more collaborations in the future. Thank you for helping create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all.

**Invitation to Parents for Confirmation Meeting:** Dear parents of children registered for the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are cordially invited to a crucial meeting in the tearoom at St. Mary's Castletown on Wednesday, 7th May, at 7.00 pm. Your presence and participation are significant as we discuss the Confirmation process and answer any questions you may have. This gathering will provide important information regarding the Confirmation process and allow you to ask questions. We'd appreciate your involvement as we guide the children through this significant milestone in their faith journey. We are excited to see you at the meeting. I want you to know that your participation is highly valued - Fr. Joseph.

**Quinquennial Report:** On Monday, we met with the Archdiocesan Surveyor to discuss the Quinquennial inspection report and its recommendations. In the coming days, we will list immediate repairs that must be completed within the next 18 months. It is now time to consider how to raise the funds needed for these repairs.

**First Holy Communion:** There will be apractice for our Crowning on Saturday, 10th May at 2.30 pm. The practice for the First Holy Communion Mass will be on Saturday 17th May at 2.30 pm. All those making their First Holy Communion will need to attend both above practices, please.

**Condolences:** We send our condolences tothe parents, the family, and friends of Louise Heaney.

**Funeral:** The Funeral Mass of Heather DeBacker will be held on Tuesday 13th May 10am at St Columbia’s.

**Parish Diary**

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| 10th May  10 am | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill. The theme is “Where the Rubber Meets the Road” with Rev DeeDee Haines. |
| 11th May  11 am | Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba’s. |
| 18th May | Food bank collection in both churches. |
| 17th - 24th May | Praying The Keeills Week. |
| 18th May  11 am | First Communion Mass. |
| 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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| 11th May | Priests’ Training Fund |
| 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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