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

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**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)

**Pilgrims of Hope: “Rejoice in Hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”**

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year, we embrace the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," prompting deep spiritual reflection on our faith journeys. A true religious pilgrim intentionally seeks a richer connection with the Divine, engaging in physical and metaphorical journeys to sacred destinations. The essence of pilgrimage lies not just in the distance travelled but in the inner transformation and renewal experienced.

In our parish community, the guiding scripture, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer,” echoes powerfully as a roadmap through our spiritual journey. "Rejoice in hope" calls us to cultivate an optimistic outlook based on trust in God’s promises. The story of Abraham exemplifies this faith as he ventured into the unknown, encouraging us to celebrate the blessings around us, even amid uncertainty, and to foster vibrant faith.

“Be patient in suffering” recognizes that hardship is inevitable in our spiritual path. Job's example illustrates keeping faith through immense suffering, with each challenge presenting an opportunity to grow closer to God. By enduring gracefully, we can extract valuable lessons and build resilience.

Finally, “persevere in prayer” stresses the importance of keeping an open dialogue with God. The parable of the persistent widow highlights unwavering faith. Through persistent prayer, we nourish our hope and endurance, transforming fears into trust.

As pilgrims on this sacred journey, we must support one another. United in faith, we strive for a deeper understanding of God’s love and purpose in our lives. This Jubilee Year calls us to be hope bearers, extending our outreach beyond church walls.

May we step forward as pilgrims of hope, ready to rejoice, endure, and pray, forging connections and deepening our commitment to transformative faith within ourselves and our parish community.

“Hope is the companion of power, and mother of success; for who so hopes strongly has within him / her the gift of miracles.” Samuel Smiles.

**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 13th July** | | | |
| Sunday 13th July  **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Mary O’Friel | |
| Monday 14th July  **Weekday in Ordinary Time** |  |  | No Mass | |
| Tuesday 15th July  **Memorial of St Bonaventure** | P/E | 10 am | Evelyn Stuart (Full recovery) | |
| Wednesday 16th July  **Weekday in Ordinary Time** | C/T |  | No Mass | |
| Thursday 17th July  **Weekday in Ordinary Time** | P/E | 10 am  10.45 am | Gary Heaney (Sick)  Confessions | |
| Friday 18th July  **Weekday in Ordinary Time** | C/T | 10 am | Dario and Clemen Moreno (RIP) | |
| Saturday 19th July  **Weekday in Ordinary Time** | C/T |  | No Mass | |
| Sunday 20th July  **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | Frank Burke (Ann)  Lucy Gresty (Ann) | |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Seek God, you who are poor and your hearts will revive.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

Your words, O Lord are spirit and life; you have words of eternal life.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars,

O Lord of hosts my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**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 Sunday the offertory collection was £263.01. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Second Collection:** Last Sunday the second collection for Peter Pence was £216.22. Next Sunday there is a second collection for Priest Retirement Fund.

**Getting Involved:** Many hands make light work. The more parishioners that are involved in each area, the less the time commitment is for any one individual. There are forms this weekend at the back of each church for those who would like to get involved within the parish. If wish to help, please fill in the form and leave it in the box at the back of each church.

**This week:** Please note that there will be no Mass on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday this week.

**Mass Intentions:** Mary O’Friel, Lucy Gresty, Frank Burke, Lily Bradley, Evelyn Stuart and Port St Mary Beach Mission.

**Parish Diary**

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| 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  10 am to 1 pm | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill with Steven Hoyland. The theme is “Who do you say that I am?” |
| 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 Deacon 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 the year**

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| 20th July | Priests in Retirement |
| 14th September | Catholic Education |
| 28th September | Evangelii Gaudium |
| 19th October | APF World Missions |
| 23rd November | Animate Youth |

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

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