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

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**St. Bonaventure’s Pathway to the Divine: A Soul's Journey in the Jubilee Year of Hope**

As we journey through the Jubilee Year of Hope, St. Bonaventure invites us to reflect on the direction of our souls. His spiritual classic, The Journey of the Mind to God, illustrates the Christian life as a sacred ascent—moving from the surrounding world through our hearts into the life of God. He names six stages of this journey, starting with wonder at creation and progressing through self-knowledge, contemplation, and culminating in loving union with God. As Psalm 42:1 expresses, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." This journey is both upward and inward, reminding us that the path home, no matter how distant we feel from God, is always open through Christ, our Way (John 14:6).

Hope is not mere optimism but a confident trust in God's drawing us closer, even amidst suffering and uncertainty. Saint Paul’s epistle to Romans 5:3-5 states, “Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Bonaventure urges us to see the world through the eyes of faith, recognizing in creation the Creator's fingerprints and in ourselves the image of divine love; “So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

As hopeful pilgrims, we must rediscover life’s purpose through silence, prayer, and humility. The journey to God starts today, leading us to more profound peace, joy, and the fullness of life that only God can provide. Matthew 11:28 invites us, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

May this Jubilee inspire us to courageously walk our journey, guided by St. Bonaventure toward our true home—in the loving presence of God, who waits for us. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20).

 **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 20th July** |
| Sunday 20th July **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T P/E  | 9 am11 am | Frank Burke (Ann)Lucy Gresty (Ann) |
| Monday 21st July **Weekday in Ordinary Time** |   |  | No Mass  |
| Tuesday 22nd July **Feast of St Mary Magdalene** | P/E   | 10 am  | Special Intention |
| Wednesday 23rd July **Feast of St Bridget** | C/T  | 10 am  |  |
| Thursday 24th July **Weekday in Ordinary Time**  | P/E | 10 am10.45 am | Veronica Nesbitt (RIP)Confessions |
| Friday 25th July **Feast of St James** | C/T | 10 am | Sr. Anne Marie  |
| Saturday 26th July **Memorial of SS Joachim and Anne** | C/T   | 10 am 10.45 am  | Intentions to Our Lady of RushenAdoration and Confession  |
| Sunday 27th July **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T P/E  | 9 am11 am | Lily Bradley (Ann)Port St Mary Beach Mission |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

Blessed are those who hold fast to the word of God in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

**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 £228.11. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Second Collection:** Today the second collection will be for the 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.

**Baptism:**  We welcome Torin Sheard who will be baptised to today. Please pray for Torin, his parents, and godparents.

**Rushen Abbey Open-Air Mass:** As one of the activities of the Jubilee year an Open-air Mass will be held on Saturday 16th August at 3 pm. The main celebrant will be Rev Mgr. John Devine. There have been invitations sent of other parishes and other denominations to join our parish in this open-air Mass.

**Mass Intentions:** Frank Burke, Lucy Gresty, Sr. Anne Marie, Veronica Nesbitt, Special Intention, Lily Bradley, Louise Heaney, Doyle/Ross family, Gerry Heaney, and Port St Mary Beach Mission.

**Parish Diary**

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| 26th July  7.30 pm | Concert at St. Columba’s with Rushen Silver Band and Castleford Young Musicians.  |
| 16th August  3 pm | Open-air Mass at Rushen Abbey.   |
| 13th September10 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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| 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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