

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

2nd July 2023 – Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time. (A)

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Fr. Peter Otuonkpaikhian, CSSp. (Ass. P/P St Mary's Douglas)

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

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This weekend marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Isle of Man Steam Railway and it made me think about what the Catholic Church on the Island looked like 150 years ago.

Whilst St. Mary's in Castletown was established in 1826, St. Mary's in Douglas became the main church for the Island after it was built in 1859. In the late 1800s there were over 2,000 Catholics on the Island served by two priests in Douglas who travelled to the other towns. Castletown, Peel and Ramsey had Mass once a fortnight. Ramsey was a 3 hour journey by horse and carriage from Douglas. Castletown did not get its own parish priest until 1924.

So what does this tell us? Our current Mass attendance on the Island is less than half what it was 150 years ago but we currently have twice as many priests. The priests and congregations can move around the Island far easier than they could. The faith flourished despite many people only being able to get to Mass once a fortnight. Or was it because of that? People had to make an effort and couldn't take the Church for granted.

Over the course of less than 100 years, those people raised enough money to build and furnish 8 churches. I am reminded of the parable of the widow's mite. Most of the money to pay for the churches came not from big grants from wealthy foundations but from poor people giving from what little they had.

What kind of a Church do you want in the future? What do you think God is calling us to do? Today's Gospel is quite clear: "Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me."

Our faith goes beyond our church buildings and clergy. Christianity is about putting Christ first which means loving and supporting our neighbours. Church, whilst very important to sustain, support and nourish us is a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Deacon Graeme

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).

Week commencing 2nd July			
Sunday 2 nd July: 13th Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	Moira & John Clarke (RIP) People of the Parish
Monday 3 rd July: St. Thomas, Apostle.			No Mass
Tuesday 4 th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10am	Elaine Morley (RIP)
Wednesday 5 th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10am	Kerry Doherty (Sick)
Thursday 6 th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10am	Canon Brendan Alger (RIP)
Friday 7 th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10am	Agnus McDonald (Sick)
Saturday 8 th July: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10am	Ann Clarke (Sick)
Sunday 9 th July: 14th Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	People of the Parish Private Intentions of Helen and Matt.

Response to the Psalm:

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,

To accept the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

And all within me, his holy name.

Parish Meeting: Fr. Joseph is inviting all parishioners from St. Mary's & St. Columba's to a general parish meeting, which will be held on Friday 7th July at St. Columba's Hall at 7pm. We will discuss what is happening in the parish and what we would like from Archbishop Malcom's visit in September.

Offertory Collection: Last week's collection came to £166.38.

Canon Brendan Alger: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Canon Brendan Alger, who died on 26th June 2023. He was 87 years of age and was in his 63rd year of the priesthood. His body will be received into St Mary of the Isle, Douglas at a Vigil Service at 5pm on Sunday 9th July and his funeral will be at 12 noon on Monday 10th July with Archbishop Malcolm as the main celebrant. Burial will follow at Kirk Braddan (St Brendan's) Cemetery. Refreshments after the funeral will be provided at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan.

Parish to Parish Walk: The Parish to Parish Walk will take place on Saturday 15th July. The walk will commence at 11am from St Mary's, ending at St Columba's via Scarlett. Afternoon Tea will be served in the Hall. Cost £3pp. Bring family and Friends and let's try to make this an annual event. For tickets, please contact Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867. **Closing Date 8th July.**

Flower Festival: The Parish is participating in a Flower Festival hosted by Kirk Christ Church Rushen, from the 7th, to the 13th July. Kirk Christ Church will be open for visitors from 10am - 5pm each day and refreshments will be served. Please support this venture.

Island Spirituality Network: The next ISN meeting will be held on Saturday 8 July when the speaker will be Revd Andrew Walker, Founder-Director of the London Centre for Spirituality. His theme will be "Beginning the song exactly where you are". Venue: St John's Mill, 9.30am - 12.15pm. Donations welcome.

Thank you all who joined us for Fr. Joseph's birthday BBQ. The weather was against us, but it didn't dampen our spirits! Special thanks to all the organisers & helpers on the day.

Wanted For Albania: If you have any redundant spectacles could you bring them along and place them in the shoebox in the porches of both Churches. Thank you.

Mass Intentions Received: Moira & John Clarke, Elaine Morley, Kerry Doherty,

Parish Diary:

7th July 7pm	Fr. Joseph is inviting all parishioners from St. Mary's & St. Columba's to a general parish meeting.
14th July 7pm	Free webinar "Mission unleashed: embracing the social dimension of evangelisation" with Cardinal Tagle, Pro-Prefect for the Dicastery for Evangelisation. and former President of Caritas Internationalis. For further details and to register, see https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/evangelisation
15th July 11.00am	Parish to Parish Walk £3 a ticket to include refreshments and sausage baps. Starts at St Mary's, ending at St Columba's via Scarlett. Bring family and Friends. ***Please note change of Date***
30th July	After 11am Mass at St Columba's there will be a blessing of the new garden.
12th Sept. (Evening)	Mass at Rushen Abbey in honour of Our Lady of Rushen
16th Sept. 6.30 – 9.30pm	Games Night at St Columba's Hall. Adults £3.00 Children £1.00
29th Sept. - 2nd October	Archbishop Malcolm will be visiting our parish during this time and will be celebrating Mass in both our churches.
October 2023	Holy Communion Classes. If your child will be 7, or over, before this September they will be eligible to make their first Holy Communion. Classes will start after this coming October half term ready to receive the Sacrament next May. Please take a form from the sacristy and return to Julie Maddrell.
9th Dec. 10am – 12.30pm	Wreath making class. St Columba hall 10am -12.30pm.
17th Dec. 3.00pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.

If there are other future events of which you are aware, please let us know so we can add them to the diary.

Contact details for the Social Club are as follows:

Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867