

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

27th August 2023 – Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time.

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Ordinary Time - Extraordinary Time

Today is the 21st Sunday of 'Ordinary' Time in the Church calendar, though it is an extraordinary week which records the great faith of our forefathers and foremothers. In other years, today the 27th, would be the feast day of St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine, that great Bishop (of Hippo), Doctor of the Church and author, famous for his writing of *The Confessions*. We celebrate his feast tomorrow (Monday 28th). On Tuesday we celebrate the second feast day of John the Baptist, of whom Jesus said that he was the greatest of the sons of men. In June we celebrated his life, this week we celebrate his death. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we celebrate the faith and martyrdom of English men and women: people of great faith. Faith in the face of adversity.

What do these memorials and feast days tell us? St. Augustine spent many years in search of truth and found it in Christ. St. Ambrose of Milan had a great influence upon him and his understanding of Christianity. His mother, Monica was a devout Christian and prayed for many years for Augustine's conversion, which came before her own death. The English martyrs, priests and lay people were men and women of great faith, who refused to deny their faith and as a consequence were executed. Their lives would have been far easier had they denied the truth. They chose to hold to the truth, to their relationship with God, in great adversity.

While we don't expect to, and I hope won't, be martyred for our faith, these great people of faith through the ages are beacons for us in our own faith journeys. To come to a real understanding of our own faith and form a genuine personal relationship with God takes time and effort on our behalf.

We need to make space in our busy lives to embrace God, to listen to him, to understand what he is asking of us and to act on that call.

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).

Week commencing 27th August			
Sunday 27 th August: 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	John Williams (RIP) People of the Parish.
Monday 28 th August: Mem. St. Augustine.			No Mass.
Tuesday 29 th August: Mem. Passion of St John the Baptist.	P/E	10am	Bernard Morley (RIP)
Wednesday 30 th August: Mem. St. Edmund Arrowsmith.	C/T	10am	Kerry Doherty (Sick)
Thursday 31 st August: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10am	Eucharist Service
Friday 1 st September: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10am	Fr. John Gilda (RIP)
Saturday 2 nd September: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10am	Intentions for Our Lady.
Sunday 3 rd September: 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	People of the Parish. Iris Tracey (RIP)

Response to the Psalm:

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself,
and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

Offertory Collection: Last week's collection came to £234.53.

Novena To Our Lady of Rushen: The Novena begins on 4th September, concluding on the 12th September where a mass will be held at 7pm at St. Mary's Church Castletown. Over the 9 days, during daily Mass, the Novena will be celebrated. For those who cannot attend the daily Masses, you can pray the Novena in private. The Novena Prayers will be provided.

Thanks: The SVP Committee we would like to say a big thank you to those anonymous parishioners for their continued contributions to the 'Jam pots'. So far in August we have banked £38 (July totalled £53). This enables us to handout Shoprite food vouchers to those families who have fallen into hard times. From the feedback we get they are so grateful.

First Holy Communion Classes: If your child will be 7 years or over before September please take a form from Sacristy for First Communion classes to start in November. Otherwise speak with Julie Maddrell on 438462.

Confirmation Preparation: In preparation for the children being confirmed we require copies of their Baptism Certificates. Please drop these in at the Sacristy or email them to us at your earliest convenience. The sessions are from 7-8pm in St. Mary's Church Castletown on the following Wednesdays: 6th September & 13th September. There will be a rehearsal at 4.45pm on Tuesday 19th September in St. Mary's **Douglas**. The Confirmation Celebration will be at 11am on Saturday 30th September in St. Mary's **Douglas**.

Port St. Mary Civic Service: The Port St Mary Commissioners have organised a civic service for Sunday 10 September at 10.30 at Mount Tabor Methodist Church (opposite the triangular green). St Columba's will be represented by Deacon Alan Molloy, and John Pennington will be leading the Intercessions (the Bidding Prayers). All are invited to attend, and refreshments will be served after the service. There is also a ceremony at 10:00 that day at the Memorial Garden to bless a plaque in memory of those who died in the Brig Lily disaster. That will end in plenty of time for anyone wishing to attend Mass at St Columba's at 11:00. We are beginning to be invited to these Civic Services again, so it would be good if we were able to attend.

Thanks: Many thanks to those who came to the Parish to Parish walk yesterday. A lovely day out with great company.

Mass Intentions Received: John Williams, Bernard Morley, Kerry Doherty, Mary Tierney, Fr. John Gilda, Iris Tracey, Sr. Imelda Poole & Nuala & Brian Dwyer.

Parish Diary:

Wednesdays as listed, 7pm	Confirmation Preparation at St. Mary's Castletown. 6th and 13th Sept.
12th Sept. 7pm	Please Note Change of Venue: Mass at St. Mary's Castletown in honour of Our Lady of Rushen.
16th Sept. St. John's Mill 10am – 1pm	Island Spirituality Network – A Morning with the Northumbria Community. A covenanted, dispersed network of Christians, exploring new ways for living in our changing world.
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.
30th September 11am	Confirmation Service, St. Mary's Douglas.
4th October 2pm-4pm	The Parish Craft club - This is a lovely social gathering where we bring along a craft we are working on or use this opportunity to learn a new skill.
4th November 3pm	First Communion Classes commence.
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.
20th April 2024	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
18th May 2024	First Communion Mass.

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

Social Club Committee contact details: Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867.