

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

24th September 2023 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary

Time. (A)

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My ways are not your ways

In today's first reading, Isaiah speaking for the Lord says "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways". As Christians, we need to remember that God knows what he is doing and does it in his way, not the way we might expect.

It's very useful to remember this when we look at today's Gospel. You will notice that the landowner offered the first group 1 denarius which was the usual amount for a day's work. As he realised that more workers were needed, he went and got them and said he'd give them a fair wage, without specifying the amount. Remember that when the crops are ready, time is of the essence to gather it. It may well have been that these later groups were ill or infirm and unable to do a full day's work, but could do a few hours.

At the end of the day, the late comers were paid first and were pleasantly surprised to receive a full day's pay of 1 denarius. The first group didn't mind as if the landowner was being generous, they expected a nice bonus. But they only got the 1 denarius that had been agreed and (in human terms) it's easy to see why they were aggrieved. The landowner pointed out that they had got what was agreed and if he wanted to be generous with others, that was up to him.

The Rabbis were not against receiving repentant sinners who would be encouraged to return to the fold. But they couldn't expect to be treated equally. God is different. The slate really is wiped clean.

God is just and will always come good on his promises. But he's also generous and we should not be envious if he gives more to others. He is so full of love that he wants to pour out his gifts on anyone who will accept them. Those who have had the privilege of serving him the longest should not begrudge those who, for whatever reason, are late coming to his service.

As a footnote, the harvest is now. We are being asked to help support those in need and support those looking for meaning in life. We need to act now. If you haven't done things in the past, don't worry. You'll get your reward and the past will be forgotten.

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 25th September			
Sunday 24th September: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	Stuart & Elizabeth Haywood People of the Parish
Monday 25th September: Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass.
Tuesday 26th September: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10am	Mike Proffit (Get Well)
Wednesday 27th September: Mem. St. Vincent de Paul.	C/T	10am	Doreen Short (RIP)
Thursday 28 th September: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10am	Edward Mooney (Get Well)
Friday 29 th September: Fst. SS. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels.	C/T	10am	Kerry Doherty (sick) Michael O'Friel
Saturday 30 th September: Mem. St. Jerome.	C/T	10am	No Mass.
Sunday 1 st October: 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9am 11am	People of the Parish Margaret Rennie (Get Well)

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven

and glory in the highest heavens!

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
May my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Offertory Collection: Last week's collection came to £217.59

Last week's second collection came to: £172.56

St. Mary of the Isle: The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has granted cathedral status to the church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Douglas.

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 Celebration: The Confirmation Celebration will be at 11am on Saturday 30th September in St. Mary's **Douglas**.

Archbishop Malcolm Visit: On Sunday 1st October we are planning on holding a luncheon at St. Columba's Hall at 12pm. We are looking for volunteers to help make sandwiches, sausage rolls and cake. A list will be placed in each hall/coffee room if you can add your name where you are able to assist. Thank you for your ongoing support.

CAFOD. Cafod envelopes will be available this week at the back of both churches. The envelopes should be handed in after family fast day on Friday 6th of October.

Survey on End of Life Issues: Dignity in Dying have commissioned Island Global Research (IGR) to do a survey on End of Life issues. Although they say that the results of the survey will be objectively and independently analysed and key findings will be made publicly available, we know that they will use the results to further their cause of legalising assisted suicide. We would encourage as many people as possible to do the survey and spread the word about it. It is really important our views are heard. You don't need to be an IGR panel member to do the survey – at the end you will be asked whether you are a member or not and if you want to become one. The survey is on line at

<https://survey.islandglobalresearch.com/s3/End-of-Life-Survey2023>

Assisted Dying Prayer Evening 'Standing in the Gap': Everyone is encouraged to come to this event organised by Churches Alive in Mann at Broadway Baptist Church on Thursday 12 October at 7.00pm.

Craft Club: The Craft Club will be re-starting on the 4th October at 2pm in St. Columba's Hall. This is a lovely social gathering where we bring along a craft we are working on or just drop in for a cup to tea and a slice of cake. All welcome.

Mass Intentions Received: Stuart & Elizabeth Haywood, Kerry Doherty, Alwynne Fidler, Doreen Short, Mike Proffit, Eric Moore, Private Intention, Edward Mooney & Margaret Rennie.

Cleaners. We are looking for volunteers to assist with cleaning in both churches.

Parish Diary:

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.
14th October	Island Spirituality Network Revd Sharon Grenham-Thompson Sharon is an ordained Anglican priest and currently works as a parish vicar. She's also an author and regular radio broadcaster including Radio 4 Daily Service Theme A Single Sunbeam Reflecting with St Francis
4th November 3pm	First Communion Classes commence.
5th November 12pm	Fairtrade Sale and lunches at St. Columba's after 11.00 Mass
25th November 11am - 1pm	The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 25 th November from 11am until 1pm all proceeds are to go to the SVP
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.