

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

29th October 2023 – Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time. (A)

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Loving God, Our Neighbour and Ourselves.

Last week the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus by asking about taxes. This week they're at it again, this time asking about the greatest commandment. In between these two passages in Matthew's Gospel, the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus by asking a question about marriage at the resurrection. Each time, Jesus silenced the questioners with an answer they weren't expecting.

The point about today's question is that for the Pharisees the Law, or the Ten Commandments as given to Moses and listed in the Torah had to be taken in their entirety. It wasn't for man to pick and choose. But in his reply, Jesus distills all ten down to two: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

Two things strike me with that reply. Firstly, it is impossible to keep the first one without keeping the second; you cannot love God without loving your neighbour. Secondly, we are asked to love our neighbours as ourselves. There is an assumption that we do love ourselves. And being created in the image of God we should love ourselves. Yes, we are imperfect; yes, we make mistakes. But God still loves us and so should we.

Thinking about loving our neighbour during the week it struck me that there are some major issues going on at the moment that should really concern us: Middle East; Ukraine; Climate Change; Cost of Living; Assisted Dying. Asking which is the most important is like asking which Commandment is most important. They all are and we should pray for good outcomes in all of them and it is our Christian duty to do all we can. But in the short term we can make a real practical difference regarding the Assisted Dying Bill. Please do so for the sake of our vulnerable neighbours and to show your love of God.

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 29 th October			
Sunday 29 th October: 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Alwyne Fidler
Monday 30 th October: Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass
Tuesday 31 st October: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10 am	Agnes Malone (Get Well)
Wednesday 1 st November: Solemnity of All Saints.	P/E C/T	10 am 7 pm	Eileen Hickey (Get Well) Nellie Brown (RIP)
Thursday 2 nd November: Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	P/E	10 am	All for the Faithfull Departed.
Friday 3 rd November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10 am	Special Intention to the Sacred Heart of Jesus .
Saturday 4 th November: Mem. of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop.	C/T	10 am	People of the Parish
Sunday 5 th November: 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Gerard Molloy (Ann) Catherine Casserly (Ann)

PLEASE NOTE THE MASS TIMES FOR ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

Response to the Psalm:

I love you, Lord my strength.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

We will ring out our joy at your saving help.
and exult in the name of our God.

Offertory Collection: Last week's collection came to £252.42.

Mission Sunday: Collection came to £267.58.

First Holy Communion Classes: will start Saturday 4th November at 3 pm. If you have not yet filled in a form, please get one from sacristy asap or phone Julie on 438462. We need to finalise our numbers to ensure we have enough resources.

Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper: If you would be interested in receiving a regular copy of the Universal Catholic Weekly newspaper please contact Michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk or phone: 07436 617 650. On Sale for £3.50 which can be found in the back of both Churches

Craft Club: The Craft Club has restarted on Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm 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 are welcome.

Fair-trade Sale Day: This year's Fair-trade sale day is Sunday 5th November from 12 noon till 4 pm in St Columba's church hall. As usual, there will be a huge variety of fair-traded goods, crafts, jewellery, foodstuffs, and cards on sale. As in previous years, we will also be serving delicious homemade soup, bread lunches and cakes throughout the day. If you are a cake baker, bread maker or soup creator and can make some for the refreshments, please contact Stella on 412740 or sharris@iom.com. Proceeds from the sale of refreshments will go to the Loreto Sisters working with deprived children and trafficked women in Albania.

Month of the Holy Souls: Envelopes for names of your deceased parents, relatives, friends, and all for whom you wish to pray for during the month of the Holy Souls are at the back of each church. There is also a box at the back of each church for you to return the envelope in.

Parking. Please note that on Tuesday 31st October Bowling Green Rd will be closed for Tree Maintenance.

Mass Intentions Received: Kerry Doherty, Gerard Molloy, Nellie Brown, Alwyne Fidler, Catherine Casserly, Agnes Malone, Eileen Hickey, and Special Intention to the Sacred Heart.

Parish Diary:

4th November 3 pm	First Communion Classes commence.
5th November 12 noon	Fair-trade Sale and lunches at St. Columba's after 11 am Mass.
11th November 10 am – 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill Conference Centre: Poetry and Prayer with renowned spiritual poet, writer, and speaker Rev. Dr Malcolm Guite. Come and listen !!
25th November 11 am – 1 pm	Christmas Fayre. All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
9th December 10 am - 12.30 pm	Wreath making class. St Columba hall.
17th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.
29th January 2024 8 pm	Charity concert by Rushen Silver Band 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.