

# St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

8th October 2023 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary

Time. (A)

Email: [stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk) Phone: 01624 822272

Website: [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**Parish Priest:** Father Joseph Kiganda, CSSp

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

**Deacons:** Rev. Alan Molloy      [a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk)

Rev. Graeme Easton      [g.easton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:g.easton@rcaol.org.uk)

**"Prisons Week"** is an initiative by the Churches in England and Wales to encourage us to focus once a year on the people in prison, their families, victims and all those working with prisoners.

The media spotlights prison disasters such as the recent Wandsworth escape; the real issue is the impact of crime on so many individuals. Prisons Week encourages us to pray about people and issues.

But so serious is the situation in prisons that a week of prayer is only a beginning.

We need to give our prisons much more time and attention – for example by reflecting carefully on our own attitude and approach.

So what should be our approach to prisoners? St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 25 includes prisoners as one of those groups for whom Christians should demonstrate special care. Our care for prisoners is one of the tests to be applied to each of us on Judgement Day.

In practice, what can we do to help in the parish? I strongly suggest supporting SVP because their work with families and individuals includes people at risk of offending or being drawn into a criminal subculture. Anything we can do to support families under stress through the SVP is crime prevention in practice.

Too often we react to criminal behaviour by demanding long periods in prison for the offender. One of the few advantages of "Lockdowns" is that we have experienced restrictions on our liberty – and most of us found it very challenging. This might encourage us to reflect on our experience and to recognise that prison should only be for serious offences and that very long sentences should only be imposed on the very small number of dangerous individuals. Those of us who have worked with prisoners know that the way to reduce re-offending after prison is good demanding programmes in prison, tackling prisoner illiteracy and lack of numeracy, improving communication skills and offering training to earn a living. On discharge from prison, offenders need somewhere to live and a job. If we all pray and work for change and improvement, much could be achieved to prevent further offending.

Brendan O'Friel - October 2023

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 8th October			
Sunday 8th <sup>s</sup> October: <b>27th Sunday of Ordinary Time.</b>	C/T	9am	Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
	P/E	11am	People of the Parish
Monday 9th October : <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time.</b>			No Mass.
Tuesday 10th October : <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time.</b>	P/E	10am	AH&LH ( special intention)
Wednesday 11th October: <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time.</b>	C/T	10am	Kerry Doherty (sick)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time</b>	P/E	10am	Lydia Bonfiglio(healing)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time</b>	C/T	10am	Eric Moore (RIP)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October: <b>Weekday in Ordinary Time.</b>	C/T	10am	John Green( RIP)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> October : <b>28th Sunday of Ordinary Time.</b>	C/T	9am	People of the Parish
	P/E	11am	Thanksgiving to St Jude.

### Response to the Psalm:

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I am learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

The Lord is good to those who hope in him  
To the soul that seeks him

**Offertory Collection:** Last week's collection came to £259.57

This week's second collection is for Catholic Education.

**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.

**Archbishop Malcolm Visit:** The Archbishop very much enjoyed his visit and speaking with many of our parishioners. I would like to thank all who were involved in all aspects of the event especially those who baked, prepared the food, and cleaned up afterwards. A very enjoyable day for all who were able to attend. Thank you very much and May the Good Lord reward your generosity.

**Confirmation:** Congratulations to the children who received the sacrament of Confirmation and many thanks who prepared them for the sacrament.

**CAFOD:** The envelopes handed out should be handed in after family fast day on Friday 6th of October. These can be put on the offertory plate.

**The Catholic Universe:** Please look at taking up subscription of this Catholic Weekly paper.

**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 has restarted on Wednesday afternoons 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.

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

**Mass Intentions Received:** Kerry Doherty, Eric Moore. John Green, AH & LH Private Intention, Margaret Woolnough, Lydia Bonfiglio, Elaine Morley, Thanksgiving to St Jude.

### Parish Diary:

<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Island spirituality Network will be held at 10.00am -1.00pm at St John's Mill when the speaker will be Canon John Mann, former Dean of St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. His theme will be "Attentiveness"
<b>4<sup>th</sup> November 3pm</b>	First Communion Classes commence.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> November 12pm</b>	Fairtrade Sale and lunches at St. Columba's after 11.00 Mass
<b>25<sup>th</sup> November 11am - 1pm</b>	The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 25th November from 11am until 1pm all proceeds are to go to the SVP
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10am – 12.30pm</b>	Wreath making class. St Columba hall 10am -12.30pm.
<b>29 January 8pm</b>	Charity concert by Rushen Silver Band at St. Columba's.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec. 3.00pm</b>	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	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.