

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

19th November 2023 – Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. (A)

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In today's Gospel we are introduced to a man who entrusts his property to his servants while he is abroad. He doesn't instruct them what to do with the talents; he trusts them to use their own initiative and imagination in this economic venture. The third servant is portrayed as the one who refuses to involve himself in the spirit of the enterprise. He believes that the safest way to handle his talent is to bury it and return it intact to his master.

Jesus is making a point against the scribes and the Pharisees. Their chief aim was to keep the Law which they had been given exactly as it was - not to change it, not to develop it, not to alter it in any way. Their mission was "to build a fence around the Law." It's as if they wanted to put the Law into a state of perpetual coma – that way they would avoid the risk of its walking the streets, where it would have to change and grow according to the conditions it met. Better to keep the Law in an oxygen tent, under continuous surveillance, and keep it alive on hot air.

Like the man with the one talent, the Pharisees are seen to have an investment in keeping things exactly as they were, and it is for that stale attitude that Jesus condemns them. In this parable Jesus tells us that there can be no religion without risk, no religion without adventure, no religion without enterprise. Willingness to dare is an essential part of our faith.

We can ask ourselves how we imagine God, and how the way we see him influences our attitudes and behaviour. Is God an exacting master who demands that we return to him exactly what we have been given? Is he a gambler and an adventurer, who lives in the fond hope that we will live in the spirit of his trust? Does he want us to put the gifts we have been given to good use or leave them to waste?

Is our life of faith a life of fear? The cartoonist Ashleigh Brilliant has a cartoon with two luminous eyes, rounded in terror, peering from the dark enclosure of a stone vault. Underneath, the caption reads: "If you're careful enough, nothing bad or good will ever happen to you." That can never be a portrait of Christian faith. Our faith begins with God. God risked his own Son, the talent of his life. He takes a risk with us every day. It seems only fair that we should return the favour and take a risk with 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 19 th November.			
Sunday 19 th November: 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish. Elaine Morley (RIP)
Monday 20 th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass
Tuesday 21 st November: Mem. Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.	P/E	10 am	Anne & Dominic (RIP)
Wednesday 22 nd November: Mem. St Cecilia.	C/T	10 am	Private Intention Thanksgiving to God.
Thursday 23 rd November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10 am	Mary & Gertrude (RIP)
Friday 24 th November: Mem. St. Andrew Dung-Lac.	C/T	10 am	Sarah & Elaine Doran (Get Well)
Saturday 25 th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass
Sunday 26 th November: Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Margaret Haywood People of the Parish

Response to the Psalm:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord,
keep faithful, and I will give you
the crown of life.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

Offertory Collection: Last week came to £215.11

Second Collection: Next week's second collection National Youth Sunday.

Second Collection: On the 3rd December there will be a second collection, in both Churches, for Christmas Flowers.

Christmas Fayre: Sat 25th Nov 11 am until 1 pm. Please come along and support if you can all the proceeds are to go to the SVP who are receiving more than the usual requests from professionals. Please let us recycle any unwanted gifts you may have or any good saleable items. Gifts for the raffle, cakes needed for the cake stall, or chocolate for the chocolate stall. Bottles for the popular bottle stall also most welcome. Enquiries to Pauline 834514 or email holdenfamily@manx.net. **The Church Hall will be open on the 24th November, 2 – 4.30pm to accept goods and there will also be a box in the porches of both Churches.**

SVP: The half year accounts to September are now available on the notice boards. Jam pot collections for Oct totalled £46 (Sept £41) – Thank you for your continued support.

Catholic Pic: The November edition of the Catholic Pic is available to download at: <https://tinyurl.com/yzbet88s>.

Jubilee Year 2025: Pope Francis called for a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope”. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior (2023-2024) through:

- Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council - Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium); Word of God (Dei Verbum); The Church (Lumen Gentium); and the Church in the modern world (Gaudium et Spes).
- Deepening our prayer life, with special focus on the Lord's Prayer.

A series of seminars and lectures on the Constitutions are being run by Liverpool Hope University in conjunction with the Archdiocese. These are free to attend, either in person or online. For more details, please see <http://bit.ly/3Ql4e5R>

This year's **Parish Nativity Service** is on **Sunday 17th December at 3pm at St. Columba's**. As usual we are delighted to have the fantastic Rushen Silver band providing the music for the carols. For anyone who would like to take part in this year's nativity there will be a meeting in the hall **after 11am Mass** next **Sunday 26th November**. If you can't come to the meeting please can you email Stella on stellaharris13@icloud.com or text her on 412740 instead. **The important thing is that we know who would like to take part as soon as possible** so that we can allocate the parts and organise the script. There will then be practices on the following two Sundays after mass - **December 3rd and December 10th** and a final dress rehearsal at 3pm on **Saturday Dec 16th** before the nativity itself the following day. As usual, we'd like to be as inclusive and welcoming as we can and invite anyone

who may enjoy taking part to join us - the more the merrier. Please invite any family and friends who may be interested to get involved; all are welcome.

Mass Intentions Received: Elaine Morley, Anne & Dominic, Mary & Gertrude,
Private Intention: Thanksgiving to God, Sarah & Elaine Doran, Margaret Haywood,
Johnny Haywood & Graham McFarlane.

Parish Diary:

25th November 11 am – 1 pm	Christmas Fayre. All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
29th November 2-4pm	Craft Club - 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. This will be our last meeting for 2023 and there is also a change of venue – 73 Ballacriy Park, Colby.
9th December 10 am - 12.30 pm	Wreath making class at St Columba Hall. Spaces Limited please call Susan on 460514 to book your place.
13th December 2-4pm	Craft Club - 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.
17th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.
10th January 2024 2-4pm	Craft Club – Restarts for the New Year. 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. 73 Ballacriy Park, Colby.
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.