

St Mary's & St Columba's Parish Newsletter

26th November 2023 – Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Universal King.

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Young Catholics aren't the church of the future - they're the church of today.

In 2020, Pope Francis declared that today's feast of Christ the King should also be Youth Sunday. The Vatican defines youth as those between the ages of 16 and 35 and while I suspect that most of us would envisage a slightly younger age range, it is an interesting thought that Jesus's entire ministry was when he was a youth.

In his 2019 exhortation, "Christus Vivit", Pope Francis urges young people "to contemplate the young Jesus as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts"

What difference might it make for all of us to contemplate Christ as a young person? What different might it make to consider how Christ is alive in the young, baptised members of his church?

For Francis in "Christus Vivit", by seeing Christ in young adults, the church is called to acknowledge that young Catholics are not simply the "church of tomorrow", as many will often say, but they are the church of the present.

To recognise that Christ is alive in the young members of his body affirms both the agency and responsibility of young people in the church and society. In the letter, Francis several times affirms the social commitments of young adults.

For the Pope, this is an important gift that young people offer the church and the world. "Christus Vivit" urges young people to deepen their social commitment and to make their voices heard, even if political and ecclesial leaders may not want to hear them. In one of the more approachable sections, he urges young people to be active agents in their world – and perhaps we should all heed this:

Dear young people, make the most of these years of your youth. Don't observe life from a balcony. Don't confuse happiness with an armchair, or live your life behind a screen. Whatever you do, do not become the sorry sight of an abandoned vehicle! Don't be parked cars, but dream freely and make good decisions. Take risks, even if it means making mistakes. Don't go through life anaesthetised, or approach the world like tourists. Make a ruckus! Cast out the fears that paralyse you, so that you don't become young mummies. Live! Give yourselves over to the best of life! Open the door of the cage, go out and fly! Please, don't take an early retirement.

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 26 th November.			
Sunday 26 ^h November: Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Margaret Haywood People of the Parish
Monday 27 th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass
Tuesday 28 th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10 am	Deceased members of our Parish.
Wednesday 29 th November: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10 am	Deceased members of our Parish.
Thursday 30 th November: Feast of St Andrew, Apostle.	P/E	10 am	Anges McDonald (RIP)
Friday 1 st December: Weekday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	Ann Guyler (RIP)
Saturday 2 nd December: Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10 am	Intentions to Our Lady
Sunday 3 rd December: First Sunday of Advent	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Sadie Dolan (Sick)

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Offertory Collection: Last week came to £180.42.

Second Collection: Today will be for National Youth Sunday.

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

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** this **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 next 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.

Preparing for Christmas: Why not sign up to CAFOD's online Advent Calendar of daily prayer and reflection? An opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar> for more details.

Mass Intentions Received: Margaret Haywood, Sadie Dolan, and Ann Guyler

Parish Diary:

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.
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.