

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time is the "Sunday of the Word of God" - a day, instituted by Pope Francis in 2019, devoted to the celebration and study of Sacred Scripture. The following paragraphs are extracts from his letter (*Aperuit Illis*) setting out the reasons for instituting this day. Please think about them, think what part scripture plays in your lives and how you can get closer to Scripture.

Deacon Graeme

Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity.

Along our path of welcoming God's word into our hearts, the Mother of the Lord accompanies us. She is the one who was called blessed because she believed in the fulfilment of what the Lord had spoken to her. Mary's own beatitude is prior to all the beatitudes proclaimed by Jesus about the poor and those who mourn, the meek, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted, for it is the necessary condition for every other kind of beatitude. The poor are not blessed because they are poor; they become blessed if, like Mary, they believe in the fulfilment of God's word. A great disciple and master of sacred Scripture, Saint Augustine, once wrote: "Someone in the midst of the crowd, seized with enthusiasm, cried out: 'Blessed is the womb that bore you' and Jesus replied, 'Rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it'. As if to say: My mother, whom you call blessed, is indeed blessed, because she keeps the word of God. Not because in her the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, but because she keeps that same word of God by which she was made and which, in her womb, became flesh".

May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. For as the sacred author taught of old: "This word is very near to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance" (*Dt 30:14*).

Pope Francis

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 21st January			
Sunday 21 st January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Mary Harper People of the Parish
Monday 22 nd January Weekday in Ordinary Time.			No Mass
Tuesday 23 rd January Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10 am	Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen
Wednesday 24 th January Mem. St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church.	C/T	10 am	Poor Clare Sisters
Thursday 25 th January Feast of the conversion of St. Paul, Apostle.	P/E	10 am	Mary Bridget Johnson
Friday 26 th January Mem. SS. Timothy and Titus, Bishops.	C/T	10 am	Canon O'Mahony
Saturday 27 th January Weekday in Ordinary Time.	C/T	10 am	Sadie Wills
Sunday 28 th January 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Mara Weir

Response to the Psalm:

Lord, make me know your ways.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The kingdom of God is close at hand;
believe the Good News.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Look toward the Lord and be radiant:
let your faces not be abashed.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January 2024

Prayer: As we journey with you towards unity,
may our eyes not look away but be wide open to the world.
As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out,
bind up the wounded.
and, in so doing, experience your presence in them:
You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Father of love, in Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality,
by caring for our fragile humanity.
Help us to become a community that welcomes those who feel
abandoned and lost, building a house where all are welcome.
May we come closer to one another as we offer the world your
unconditional love.
This we pray in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Parish Lunch: Our annual parish lunch will be held this year at the Colby Glen on the 25th of February and all parishioners are welcome to attend. Lunch will be at 1 pm and will cost £25 per adult and £8.50 per child under 12 years old. This cost includes main course and dessert, a donation towards Father Joseph's meal, and a tip for the waiting staff. To help coordinate and pay for the restaurant that day, please put cash and any dietary requirements in an envelope along with the names of your attendees and pass it to a member of the Social Committee on or before 18th February. Numbers are limited to 35 people, so please do let us know if you would like to attend as soon as possible. Thanks everyone and look forward to seeing you there. Please see Social Club Committee contact details.

Women's World Day of Prayer: An Ecumenical service at St Catherine's C of E Church Port Erin, 10 am refreshments/11 am -12 noon service. The theme is "**I beg you, bear with one another in love**" prepared by Christian Women in Palestine (wwdp.org.uk).

Mass Intentions: Mary Harper, Poor Clare Sisters, Mary Bridget Johnson, Canon O'Mahony, Sadie Wills, Mara Weir, and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen.

Parish Diary:

29th January 8 pm	Charity concert by Rushen Silver Band at St. Columba's.
10th February 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill. The theme is: Poetry + Social Justice. Faith + Homelessness with Michael Manning.
25th February 1 pm	Parish lunch at Colby Glen Hotel.
1st March 10 am	Women's World Day of Prayer. At St Catherine's C. Of E. Church Port Erin.
9th March 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill. The theme is The Common Good and Our Calling Spiritual and Civil Renewal.
20th April	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
19th May	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.