

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

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

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Ash Wednesday February 14TH 2024.

Wednesday February 14th is Valentine's Day, call it 'lovers' day' and usually it is a day dedicated to love and joy. On this day people exchange gifts, cards, flowers with their partners and loved ones to express their affection and appreciation. This day also serves as an opportunity to show appreciation and affection to friends and family members and colleagues. This year's Valentine's Day coincides with Ash Wednesday, a day in the Catholic Church that marks the beginning of Lent, a period of 40 days of fasting and abstinence, prayer, almsgiving, and repentance leading to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, the forehead of Catholic believer is marked with ashes in the shape of a cross. The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations. These ashes symbolize mortality, penance, and need to conversion. That is why, you hear these words said by the priest or minister, "Remember that you are dust and to dust, you shall return". Or "Repent and believe in the Gospel" while applying the ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead of a catholic believer. The ashes also serve as a visible sign of the catholic believer's commitment to repentance and renewal during the Lenten season. On this day, Mother Church encourages us to reflect on our faults and grievous faults, sins of commission and omission, seek forgiveness and make efforts to deepen our relationship with God and neighbour. Even though it is not a holy day of obligation, there will be two Masses on that day one at 10 am in St. Columba Church and second Mass in St. Mary's Castletown for the workers and those who love a long lie in the morning hours. Come and we begin together the spiritual preparation for the Easter season. **"The Family which prays together stays together."** I wish all a graceful Lenten Season.

Fr. Joseph

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 11th February			
Sunday 11 th February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Dr. Andrew Poole in Thanksgiving
Monday 12 th February Weekday in Ordinary Time.			<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday 13 th February Weekday in Ordinary Time.	P/E	10 am	Margaret Weir (RIP)
Wednesday 14 th February Ash Wednesday.	P/E C/T	10 am 7 pm	Mary Doyle (RIP) Margaret Jarvis (RIP)
Thursday 15 th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday.	P/E	10 am	Funeral of Elizabeth (Betty) Saunders
Friday 16 th February Friday after Ash Wednesday.	C/T	10 am	Cathy Walls (Ann)
Saturday 17 th February Saturday after Ash Wednesday.	C/T	10 am	Bernard Seed (Sick)
Sunday 11 th February 1st Sunday of Lent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Kevin Dolan (Ann) People of the Parish

Response to the Psalm:

You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope of his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Offertory Collection: For Sunday 4th February was £225.35.

Ash Wednesday: Catechumens are to attend the Ash Wednesday liturgies with the community and ashes will be imposed on their foreheads to begin a journey of renewal with the church.

Lent: During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday. At St Mary's at 10.30 am and at St Columba's at 7 pm. If you would like to lead the Stations at St Columba's please contact Barbara O'Friel on 833636.

Parish Lunch: Our annual parish lunch is at the Colby Glen at 1 pm on 25th February. All parishioners are welcome to attend. The cost is £25 per adult and £8.50 per child under 12 years old which includes main course and dessert, a donation towards Fr. Joseph's meal and a tip for the 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 let us know if you would like to attend as soon as possible.

Women's World Day of Prayer: An Ecumenical service at St Catherine's C of E Church Port Erin on 1st March at 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).

Inter-church Quiz in aid of Leprosy Mission; 8th March at 7 pm at Loch Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas. Included is a hotpot supper. Please see Deacon Graeme for more information or to enter.

Garden Team: Many hands make very light work. Last year the members of the garden team were only on the rota a few times in the growing season. Would you be happy to add your name to our list to mow lawn and help once or twice a year? Please let Julie know if you can.

St Columba's Music Group really enjoy leading the singing in Mass but when people are sick or off Island, we can be very thin on the ground. We would love to recruit a few more singers to swell the ranks. We practice at 6 pm on Wednesdays but it's not compulsory - we understand that people are busy. If you would like to join us just speak to any member of the group.

Mass Intentions: Margaret Weir, Dr. Andrew Poole, Mary Doyle, Margaret Jarvis, Margaret Clarkson, Cathy Walls, Bernard Seed, and Kevin Dolan.

Parish Diary:

11th February 4 pm	Workshop concert by Rushen Silver Band at St. Columba's.
12th February 7 pm	Book Launch " Christ's Seven Words from the Cross " at Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Hill Street, Douglas.
14th February	Ash Wednesday, Day of fasting and abstinence. Please note that there will be a Mass in each church.
21st February 2 pm to 4 pm	Craft Club 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.
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.
8th March 7 pm	Leprosy Mission inter-church quiz at Loch Promenade Methodist Church, Douglas.
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.
15th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.

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.