

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

First Sunday in Lent in Ordinary Time Year B

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2024 Year of Prayer

To prepare ourselves for 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope,' Pope Francis has chosen 2024 to be a year of Prayer. Our Focus will be on the Prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us and which we dare to say, "Our Father," and this gives us an opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. We are going to discover the excellent value and absolute need for prayer. In this year of prayer, you will be encouraged to do individual and communal prayer. Before we dare to say the prayer, Our Lord taught us the "Our Father", its contents and meaning. We must first know where we are as far as prayer life is concerned and ask ourselves the following questions. How do I prepare for prayer? How is my prayer life? What do I pray for? Why do I pray? How do I feel when I pray? How often do I pray? Do I pray with the family and Church? Do I pray in private? What is my experience about prayer. Do I find it difficult to pray? Why am I distracted during prayer? What types of prayers do I know? Which postures do I prefer to use during prayer and why? As a creature, how do I connect with the Absolute God in prayer? This is the year to answer these questions. To answer the above questions, it is good first to know what prayer is. St. Augustine of Hippo, a great theologian and philosopher of the early Christian church, had profound insights on prayer. His teachings on prayer were shaped by his personal journey of life of worldly pursuits to a deep relationship with God. Here are his key aspects of his teachings on prayer. A) Prayer as a desire for God. Augustine believed that prayer is a desire for God. He taught that "human beings are restless until they find their true rest in God", and prayer is a way to express and fulfil this longing. He wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you". **The family which prays together stays together.** *(To be continued...)*

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 18th February			
Sunday 18 th February 1st Sunday of Lent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Kevin Dolan (Ann) People of the Parish
Monday 19 th February Weekday in Lent.			<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday 20 th February Weekday in Lent.	P/E	10 am	Margaret Clarkson (Get Well)
Wednesday 21 st February Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Betty Saunders (RIP)
Thursday 22 nd February Feast of the See Chair of St Peter Apostle.	P/E	10 am	Brian O'Friel (RIP)
Friday 23 rd February Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen
Saturday 24 th February Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Pauline Coole (RIP)
Sunday 25 th February 2nd Sunday of Lent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Margaret Whitfield (RIP)

Response to the Psalm:

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Offertory Collection: For Sunday 11th February was £212.29.

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 at 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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: In aid of work in Liberia will be on Friday 24th February. Please consider encouraging all the able adults in your family to contribute to this collection. Fasting to do good for others is one of the positive actions we can take during times of distant disaster.

Food Bank: Our next Parish Foodbank Collection will be on Sunday, 3rd March. Please bring any item of food, cleaning materials or toiletries to Mass that day. Items can be placed in the labelled boxes. All donations are distributed locally.

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 will take place 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.

Mass Intentions: Kevin Dolan, Margaret Clarkson, Betty Saunders, Brian O'Friel, Pauline Coole, Gerry O'Toole, Keith Lawson, Michael Casserly, Margaret Whitfield, and Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Rushen.

Parish Diary:

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.
23rd February	CAFOD Family Fast Day.
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.