

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent Year B

Email: stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk Phone: 01624 822272

Website: www.manxcatholic.org

Parish Priest: Father Joseph Kiganda, CSSp

Father Peter Otuonkpaikhian, CSSp (Asst. P/P St Mary's Douglas).

Deacons: Rev. Alan Molloy a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk

Rev. Graeme Easton g.easton@rcaol.org.uk

“The Family that Prays Together Stays Together”

Jesus and the Desert Fathers.

The first Sunday of Lent we read the short pericope from Mark's gospel ***“And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness, he was in the wilderness for forty days...”***

(Mark 1:12) Like their Master, the desert Fathers left the cities for the wilderness. Who were the desert Fathers? They were the early Christian Hermits, Monks, and Ascetics; called desert Fathers because they lived primarily in the desert of Egypt between the 3rd and 5th centuries AD. The most known among them include St. Anthony the Great, (the father of Christian monasticism), Saint Paul of the Thebes (considered one of the first Christian hermits to live a solitary life of prayer, fasting and contemplation and Saint Anthony the Great was his disciple) Saint Pachomius (he emphasised communal living shared prayer, obedience to the rules, he developed a rule for his monks, outlining their daily activities, spiritual practices and guidelines for living in community), Saint Macarius of Egypt (he practiced rigorous asceticism and contemplative prayer; he taught about inner spiritual life, humility and struggle against temptation), and Saint Syncletica of Alexandria (desert Mother, known for her profound spiritual wisdom and Ascetic lifestyle and adopted a solitary life of prayer, fasting and contemplation; she taught about the importance of renunciation, self-discipline, inner-purity, humility and self-awareness in the pursuit of holiness and warned against the dangers of pride and self-indulgence) The desert Fathers and Mothers – Ammas, were great imitators of the life of Jesus and continues to inspire Christians, you and I seeking a deeper spiritual life so that we get into closer relationship with God.

Why did Jesus go to the desert? Robert Cardinal Sarah, [Catechism of the Spiritual Life](#), page,103, he writes that, ***“In leaving for the wilderness, Jesus decides to exclude radically all sources of distraction, agitation, and noise, which are the enemies of a life of prayer and intimacy with God.”*** Take the Church to be your ‘wilderness’ where you come to meet with God, pray, give thanks, ask for body and spiritual healing. It is a holy place to save you from distractions, mundane thoughts, and noise. The house of God is different from a social hall. It is a house of prayer. ***“Be still and know that I am God.”*** (Ps 46:10) Avoid being a source of distraction and noise, the enemies of a life of prayer and intimacy with God. This weekend we are sharing about distractions.

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 10th March			
Sunday 10 th March 4th Sunday of Lent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Bob Preston (Ann) People of the Parish
Monday 11 th March Weekday in Lent.			<i>No Mass</i>
Tuesday 12 th March Weekday in Lent.	P/E	10 am	Betty Saunders (RIP)
Wednesday 13 th March Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Fraser Drummond
Thursday 14 th March Weekday in Lent.	P/E	10 am	Nacy Gribbon
Friday 15 th March Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Bridgette Heaney and family
Saturday 16 th March Weekday in Lent.	C/T	10 am	Poor Clare Sisters
Sunday 17 th March 5th Sunday of Lent.	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Gerry O’Toole (Ann)

Response to the Psalm:

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son;
Everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

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

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

Mass Offerings: Last week £196.01.

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.

Second Collection: There will be a second collection on Sunday 17th March towards the flowers for Easter Sunday.

Assisted Dying Bill: There is a public meeting on Tuesday March 12th at the Manx Museum at 7 pm. Alex Schadenberg, Canadian founder of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, is the main speaker. He will detail the situation in Canada and the lessons to be learned. Also speaking is Dr. Duncan Gerry, consultant geriatrician at Nobles Hospital. Please come along if you can, tell others about it, invite them to come with you and publicise as much as you can to friends, neighbours, and co-workers.

Safeguarding Rep training/re Rep training: The safeguarding section are arranging training sessions in the coming weeks for new local Parish Reps, or any existing Reps who wish to refresh their knowledge. If you wish to take these training sessions, please email C.Newton@rcaol.org.uk.

Mass Intentions: Bob Preston, Patricia Donaghy, Betty Saunders, Fraser Drummond, Nancy Gribbon, Bridgette Heaney and family, Poor Clare Sisters, and Gerry O'Toole.

Parish Diary:

12th March 7 pm	Public meeting at Manx Museum on Assisted Dying.
20th April	Sacrament of Reconciliation.
11th May 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill. The theme is Happiness in the Psalms.
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.