

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

Third Sunday of Easter.

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“The Family that Prays Together Stays Together”

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ACTS OF APOSTLES REFLECTION

The Book of Acts of the Apostles is a historical account of the early Christian Church after Jesus' ascension. It highlights several vital teachings and themes that shaped the early Church, including the Holy Spirit's Empowerment. We read the Acts of the Apostles on Easter Sunday, the Easter Season, and Pentecost Sunday.

The book begins with Jesus directing the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit's arrival before embarking on their mission. This divine empowerment, manifested in the Pentecost event in Acts 2, underscores the early Church's reliance on and guidance by the Holy Spirit.

Another vital theme is the spread of the Gospel. Acts emphasise the rapid spread of Christianity, starting in Jerusalem and reaching out to Judea, Samaria, and eventually the Gentile world. It highlights the universal scope of salvation and the importance of sharing the Gospel. The book also illustrates the pivotal roles of Peter and Paul, who appeared as central figures in the early Christian community.

Persecution and Martyrdom are other themes in the book. The early Christians faced persecution from Jewish authorities and Roman rulers, but they stayed steadfast in their faith, showing the power of their conviction and the strength of their faith in God. Acts depict the early Christian community as characterised by fellowship, resource sharing, and mutual support.

The book records many miracles the apostles performed, proving God's power at work in the early Church. These miracles were a sign of God's presence and a testament to the apostles' authority. Acts paints a vivid picture of the Gospel's inclusivity, extending a warm welcome to Jews and Gentiles into the family of God. This aspect of the Gospel underscores the universal nature of Christianity and its open arms towards all.

Finally, Acts provides insights into the development of church leadership and decision-making processes. It shows the importance of leadership and organisation in the early Church to ensure that it continued to grow and thrive. Overall, Acts of the Apostles serves as a valuable historical account of the birth and growth of the Christian Church. It offers useful insights into the early Church that we can still apply today. Listen, learn, and put into practice.

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 14th April			
Sunday 14 th April Third Sunday of Easter	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish James Mooney
Monday 15 th April Weekday of Easter			No Mass
Tuesday 16 th April Weekday of Easter	P/E	10 am	Annette McClue (Ann)
Wednesday 17 th April Weekday of Easter	C/T	10 am	Private Intention
Thursday 18 th April Weekday of Easter	P/E	10 am	Fr. John Mary (Ann)
Friday 19 th April Weekday of Easter	C/T	10 am	Fr. Joe Kelly (Ann)
Saturday 20 th April Weekday of Easter	C/T	10 am	Nigel McFarlane (Sick)
Sunday 21 st April Fourth Sunday of Easter	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	For those who clean our churches People of the Parish

Response to the Psalm:

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread, Alleluia.

Offertory Collection: Last week came to £240.18.

Special Collection: There will be a special collection next Sunday for the Priest Training Fund.

Mass Intentions: There are now Mass Intention request forms at the back of each church. When requesting a Mass, please fill in the request form. This will make the process simpler. On the form, please specify the Intention for the Mass.

- Died recently
- Death anniversary
- Marriage anniversary
- Illness
- Safe journey
- Expectant mother
- Special Intention
- Mass to Our Lady
- Mass to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Change of Date: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will now take place on Saturday 27th April at 3 pm.

Praying The Keeills week will take place this year from Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th May. For more details, please see www.prayingthekeeills.org

Thanks: We extend our sincerest gratitude to all those who helped prepare and participated in the Paschal celebrations. The efforts of the decorators, altar servers, choir members, readers, and all those who supported them in any way are greatly appreciated. We could not have done it without you. It was heart-warming to see many children getting involved; please, parents, encourage them more. To our dear visitors who joined us during Easter, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for celebrating with us. We hope you had a wonderful time and felt welcomed and included in our community. We eagerly anticipate the next time we can celebrate together. **Fr. Joseph.**

Mass Intentions:

- Nigel McFarlane
- Fr. Joe Kelly
- James Mooney
- Annette McClure
- Fr. John Mary
- Private Intention

Parish Diary:

27th April 3 pm	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."
18th - 25th May	Praying The Keeills week
19th May	First Communion Mass.
15th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's.

If you are aware of future events, please let us know so we may add them to the diary. **Social Club Committee contact details:** Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867.