

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

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

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“The Family that Prays Together Stays Together”

I know that the old adage says: ‘it is always darkest just before the dawn’ and, indeed, I think that may well be true. However, we are a people of Hope. We live in ‘the now’ but we look toward the future. The future holds the promise of our faith.

This time of year, especially in November, is a time of reflection – upon the truly awful world wars of the 20th Century (and indeed all wars) but also on loss, on grieving for those we may have lost in our families, our friends, or others we hold fondly in our memories and thoughts. As Christians, we also acknowledge the hope of life everlasting, as each and every one of us passes from this life to the next.

We should also be mindful that this time of year is not necessarily a universally happy time of preparation for the forthcoming festivities – the party planning, eating, and drinking - so much of the secular world is consumed by and television is pumping out. It is not always a time of ‘happy families.’ That is not to say that we ought not look to the event in joyful anticipation. We should! We are Christian. Just that hopefully we keep it all in proportion.

Whether we are members of a large or small family, single - by choice or by accident, widowed, young or old, Christmas can and does hold out an opportunity for us to provide a light to others, to be that candle in the darkness for someone who may not share our enthusiasm for the Christmas season or may be carrying a heavy burden or struggling in life.

Perhaps, as Christians, we might make a New Year’s resolution (remember, our New Year starts on 1st December!) that we might hold ourselves out as a light in the darkness for someone who is struggling with life, who may benefit from a smile, a kind word or a gentle, listening ear, especially in these dark winter days. We are a people of light, of hope. We know that after this short period of darkness, the light will shine brightly. Let’s be part of that light!

Deacon Alan

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 17th November			
Sunday 17 th November Thirty- Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Jane Kelly (RIP) People of the Parish
Monday 18 th November Weekday in Ordinary Time			No Mass
Tuesday 19 th November Weekday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	Stephen Murray (Sick)
Wednesday 20 th November Weekday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	For Deceased members of the Parish
Thursday 21 st November Memorial Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	For Deceased members of the Parish Confession
Friday 22 nd November Memorial of St Cecilia, Virgin, and Martyr	C/T	10 am	
Saturday 23 rd November Weekday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 24 th November Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish

Responsorial Psalm:

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

Stay awake and stand ready

because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

To be near God is my happiness
to place my hope in God the Lord.

Offering Collection: Last week's offertory collection was £167.01

Second Collection: Next Sunday's second collection will be for Animate Youth

Catholic Hearld: This month's Catholic Hearld is on sale now for £4.50

Quiz Night: The Social Club will be holding a Quiz Night on Tuesday, 26th November, at 7 pm in St Columba's Hall. Entry is £1 per person to cover tea and coffee. You can enter as a team up to six people or be allocated a team on the night. Please bring a faith supper, BYO tipples, and bring a friend. Please speak to a Social Club member to book your place.

Baptism: We welcome Madison Hodgson who was baptised yesterday. Please pray for her and her parents.

Nativity Service This year's Parish Nativity Service is on Sunday 15th December at 3pm at St. Columba's. As usual we are delighted to have the fantastic Rushen Silver band providing the music for the carols. For anyone who would like to take part in this year's nativity there will be a meeting in the hall after 11am Mass next Sunday 24th November. If you can't come to the meeting, please can you email Graeme on g.easton@rcaol.org.uk or text him on 435056 instead. The important thing is that we know who would like to take part as soon as possible so that we can allocate the parts and organise the script. There will then be practices on the following two Sundays after 11am mass on 1st and 8th December and a final dress rehearsal on Saturday 14th December before the nativity itself the following day. As usual, we'd like to be as inclusive and welcoming as we can and invite anyone who may enjoy taking part to join us- the more the merrier. Please invite any family and friends who may be interested to get involved; all are welcome.

Thank you: A huge thanks to all who supported last week's Fairtrade Sale. The Fairtrade sales totalled £1428.45 and will help ensure that the producers and growers in some of the world's poorest countries get a fair price for their work. The money raised from refreshments and donations for the work of the Loreto Sisters in Albania was £565. Special thanks to all the to all those involved in preparing soups, baking bread, making cakes, setting up, serving, and tidying up. This was truly a remarkable team effort from the Parish, as always.

First Holy Communion Class: If your child will be 7 years of age or above by 1st January 2025, please enroll them for our next First Holy Communion class. The classes will start on Sunday, 12th January 2025, and be held each Sunday at 12.30 pm, after 11 o'clock Mass at St Columba's and last for one hour.

The actual First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, 18th May 2025

Either:

- 1) Take an enrollment form from the sacristy and return to Rachel or Julie.
- 2) Phone Rachel Parr on 07815 925076 or Julie Maddrell 07624 438462.

Christmas Fayre: The Christmas Fayre Team will be pleased to accept any raffle prizes or gifts for the chocolate luck dip. The Christmas Fayre popular bottle stall will be pleased to accept bottles of any description. One youngster mentioned last week they won a lovely bottle of apple juice last year variety is good! Cakes always sell at our Christmas Fayre so if you can make something please help.

Next Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King, Youth Sunday, and we are pleased to welcome the Island's Filipino Youth Choir to both our Masses.

Mass Intentions: Jane Kelly and Stephen Murray.

Parish Diary:

17th November 2 pm	Reader's training in St Mary's.
26th November 7 pm	Quiz Night at St Columba's Hall.
30th November 11 am to 1 pm	Christmas Fayre at St Columba's Hall.
7th December 10 am to 12.30 pm	Christmas Wreath making class at St Columba's Hall.
15th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's Church.
12th January 2025 12.30 pm	Start of First Holy Communion classes in St Columba's Hall.
11th May 11 am	Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba's.
18th May 11 am	First Communion Mass.

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.

Second Collections for 2024

24 th November	Animate Youth
8 th December	Christmas flowers for both churches