**St. Mary’s & St. Columba’s Parish Newsletter**

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**Website:** [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org/)

**Parish Priest:** Father Joseph Kiganda, CSSp

Fr Dennis T. Ortese-Yiye 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

**Philosophy and Theology instil the Virtue of Hope in Humanity.**

My visit to Uganda, East Africa, was a profound journey that expanded my understanding of how philosophy and theology cultivate the vital virtue of hope within humanity, even amidst adversity and hardship. As I traversed various communities, I saw firsthand the inspiring resilience and determination of individuals who draw strength from their deeply held beliefs and core values, extracting meaning and purpose from their daily struggles against overwhelming odds. The locals generously shared their stories, which resonated with the profound teachings of philosophers such as Viktor Frankl, *who emphasize the significance of deriving hope from our experiences and the narratives we construct around them*. Their resilience and determination are proof of the transformative power of hope.

My intimate conversations with community members made it increasingly clear how indispensable faith is in nurturing hope. The perceptible energy at religious gatherings, adorned with worship songs and communal prayers, underscored the essential role of love, compassion, and solidarity in these tight-knit communities. It was moving to see how, even during challenging circumstances such as economic struggles or health crises, people would come together, united by a shared sense of purpose and an unwavering belief in one another. This experience significantly deepened my appreciation of hope—not as an abstract or distant ideal—but as a powerful and transformative force that uplifts individuals, guiding them through adversity while reinforcing their faith in a brighter, more promising future. The transformative power of hope was self-evident in these communities, inspiring and uplifting all who saw it.

Overall, my time in Uganda, East Africa, vividly illustrated how the principles of philosophy and theology are intricately woven into the fabric of community life, fostering hope through personal growth and collective reliance. It was a heartfelt reminder of the profound impact of shared beliefs and communal support in cultivating an enduring spirit of hope in the face of life’s immense challenges. This sense of communal support and shared beliefs is not unique to E. Africa but a universal human experience that connects us all in the journey of hope.

 **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).

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| **Week commencing 23rd February**  |
| Sunday 23rd February **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | Nigel McFarlane (Sick) People of the Parish |
| Monday 24th February**Weekday in Ordinary Time** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 25th February**Weekday in Ordinary Time** | P/E | 10 am | David Radcliffe (RIP) |
| Wednesday 26th February**Weekday in Ordinary Time** | C/T | 10 am | Elaine Henderson (RIP) |
| Thursday 27th February**Weekday in Ordinary Time** | P/E | 10 am | Michael Casserly (Ann) |
| Friday 28th February**Weekday in Ordinary Time** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 1st March **Feast of St David, Patron of Wales**  | C/T | 10 am10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 2nd March **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**   | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish David Radcliffe (RIP) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia**

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,

that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon**:

I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad,

and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Jubilee Year 2025**: During the year of the Jubilee the parish motto will be, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer” (Rom 12:12).

**Dear Parishioners,** I want to thank Fr. Dennis for his dedicated service to the parish during my holiday. His care and commitment have made a significant difference in our community, and I am truly grateful for his efforts. I also want to express my gratitude to everyone who played a crucial role in enabling Fr. Dennis to carry out his ministry smoothly. Your help with transportation and the time you took to take him out for meals were instrumental in his service, and I deeply appreciate your hospitality and kindness. Fr. Dennis expressed his appreciation and wished my holiday could be extended! His thoughtfulness profoundly touches me. Thank you once again for your support and cooperation. Your contributions are vital to the well-being of our community and mean so much to both Fr. Dennis and me.

Blessings, Fr. Joseph.

**World Day of Prayer:** The World Day of Prayer will be on Friday, 7th March. A service will be held at Colby Methodist Church. There will be refreshments before the service at 10 am. The service will be held at 11 am. All are welcome at this service.

**Quiz Night and Hot Pot Supper:**  There will be a Quiz Night and Hot Pot Supper held on Friday, 14th March, at 7 pm at Promenade Methodist Church, Loch Promenade, Douglas. The suggested donation is £12 per person made on the night. The money raised will go to the Leprosy Mission. For more details, please see Deacon Graeme.

**Barn Dance:** The social club will be holding a Barn Dance on Saturday, 13th September, from 7 pm to 9.30 pm at St Columba’s Hall. This will be a shared supper event, so we ask that you bring a plate of food to share and your own drinks. Brendan Mc Laughlin is very kindly supplying the music. There will be an optional fancy dress with prizes for the best fancy dress. We are limited to 50 places, so please book early to avoid disappointment, with any of the social club team. The tickets are priced at £2.50 for adults and £1 for children. Proceeds from this event will go towards the purchase of a projector for the parish.

**Parish Luncheon:** Thank you to everyone who will be attending the parish luncheon. We have had a huge response and, as a result, we have the whole restaurant to ourselves for the 2 pm sitting. Due to the size of the party, we will have to collect all monies the week before the event. When you pay for your tickets, please let us know your dietary requirements. We will have to vacate the restaurant area at 3.50 pm, but we are very welcome to use the bar. Thank you.

**Mass Intentions:** David Radcliffe, Nigel McFarlane,Elaine Henderson, and Michael Casserly.

**Parish Diary**

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| **2nd March****2 pm** | Parish luncheon at Falcon Nest Hotel. |
| **7th March****10 am** | World Day of Prayer service at Colby Methodist Church.  |
| **8th March** **10 am to 1 pm** | Island Spirituality Network at St Johns’s Mill. The theme is “The Spirituality of Taize” with Rev Chis Howson. |
| **17th March** **7 pm**  | Quiz and Hot Pot Supper for Leprosy Mission at Promenade Methodist Church Douglas.  |
| **26th April** **10 am**  | “Pilgrims of Hope” talk by Rev. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, CSSP, 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. |
| **26th July** **Time to be announced** | Concert at St. Columba’s with Rushen Silver Band and Castleford Young Musicians.  |
| **13th September****7 pm to 9.30 pm** | Parish Barn Dance at St Columba’s Hall.  |
| **14th December****3 pm**  | Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba’s. |

If you have any thoughts on how we can celebrate the Jubilee Year as a parish, please talk to Deacon Alan or Graeme. 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 until the end of May**

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| 30th March  | Nugent  |
| 18th April  | Holy Places  |
| 11th May  | Priests’ Training Fund  |

**“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer”**

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