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

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**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

**The Lenten Season begins on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025**

The Catholic Lenten Season is a profoundly significant 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, serving as a time for deep spiritual reflection leading up to Easter Sunday. It solemnly commemorates Jesus Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, marking the start of a transformative journey. The season commences on Ash Wednesday and culminates on Holy Saturday before Easter.

**The Three Pillars of Lent**

1. **Prayer** – Lent is a time to deepen one’s relationship with God through personal and communal prayer. It involves attending Mass and engaging with Scripture, meditating, and sharing these experiences with the community, fostering a sense of togetherness and spiritual growth.

2. **Fasting** may involve giving up certain foods, such as meat, or habits like watching television or using social media as a form of penance. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are designated as obligatory fast days.

3. **Almsgiving** – Acts of charity and generosity aimed at helping those in need.

**Important Days in Lent**

**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent when Catholics receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance. This year, in 2025, Ash Wednesday falls on March 5th.

**Sundays of Lent** – These days are not counted among the 40 days but are essential for spiritual reflection.

**Palm Sunday** – The onset of Holy Week, marking Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

**Holy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist (This is my body ..., This is my blood...). It also includes the renewal of priestly commitment, as Jesus instituted the priesthood at the Last Supper. On Holy Thursday, the bishop blesses the holy oils used in the sacraments throughout the year.

**Good Friday** is a Day to observe Jesus’ crucifixion and death, a solemn day of fasting and reflection.

**Holy Saturday** – A Day of waiting and preparation before the celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection at the Easter Vigil, a service held after sundown on Holy Saturday, marking the beginning of Easter.

Lent is a time for spiritual renewal, focusing on repentance and preparing for the joy of Easter.

I wish everyone a grace-filled Lenten Season.

 **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 2nd March**  |
| Sunday 2nd March **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish David Radcliffe (RIP) |
| Monday 3rd March **Weekday in Ordinary Time** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 4th March **Weekday in Ordinary Time** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Wednesday 5th March **Ash Wednesday**  | P/EC/T | 10 am7 pm |  |
| Thursday 6th March **Thursday after Ash Wednesday**  | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Friday 7th March **Friday after Ash Wednesday**  | C/TP/E | 10 am10.30 am7 pm  | Stations of the CrossStations of the Cross  |
| Saturday 8th March **Saturday after Ash Wednesday**  | C/T | 10 am10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 9th March **First Sunday of Lent** | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | Eleanor Smith (RIP)People of the Parish  |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia**

Shine as lights in the world,

holding fast to the word of life.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon**:

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,

sing psalm to the name of the Lord Most High.

**Offering Collection:** Last week’s offertory collection was £164.37.

**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).

**The Spiritan Provincial Leadership Team.** The Spiritan Provincial Leadership Team is scheduled to visit the Isle of Man from March 3rd to March 7th. The team will conduct a three-day Provincial Leadership Team meeting during their stay. On 6th March, they will visit St. Mary’s in Douglas and Our Lady of the Star in Ramsey. The five council members will leave the Isle of Man on Friday, while Father Ugo will remain for the weekend to preside over the two Weekend Masses. We extend our best wishes for a pleasant and productive visit.

**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.

**Jubilee Year Service:** On Wednesday, 12th March, at 7.00 pm we will gather around the Mission Cross at St Mary’s Cathedral Church to renew our dedication to the Crucified Christ. With the choir to support us this special Jubilee Year Service will celebrate our relationship with the Cross of Christ; an opportunity to make this Jubilee Year Lent extra special. Parishioners from across the Island are invited to join us*.*

**Parish Luncheon:** We look forward to seeing those of you who have purchased tickets for the Parish Luncheon later today. Regrettably both Fr. Joseph and Fr. Dennis are now not able to attend. Furthermore, we are unable to offer a partial refund on the adults’ tickets due to a price increase make by the Falcon of £1.50 per adult. Thank you for your understanding as understandably these things are out of our control,

**Mass Intentions:** David Radcliffe, Eleanor Smith, and Mary, John, and Frank Hutchinson.

**Parish Diary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. |
| **12th March** **7 pm**  | Jubilee year service around the Mission Cross at St Mary’s Cathedral Church Douglas. |
| **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**

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

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

*Archdiocese of Liverpool A charitable incorporated organisation (registered charity number 1199714)*