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

**Second Sunday of Lent**

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

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**Faithful Saints – Past and Present**

This month we celebrate great saints of our faith: David, the patron saint of Wales; Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. In a few months we will celebrate St Maughold, patron saint of the Isle of Man. On Tuesday next (19th) we will celebrate the life and faith of St Joseph, protector of the Holy Family. The first three I mentioned were Christian, the fourth Jewish.

This month, for Muslims, is the holy month of Ramadan. For Christians, we are now in the time of Lent: a time of personal renewal and preparation for Easter which is the pinnacle, the very essence, of our faith.

Why have I mentioned three faiths? Well, the connection *is* faith. The faith of our forefathers in their lives, in their journeys in faith and their desire or the fire in their hearts to share their insights and faith with others, with us! Surely, no one exemplifies their faith and guardianship more than St. Joseph. God is at the centre of all our faiths, but it is in sharing that it becomes alive in the world.

This shared time of Ramadan and Lent are periods for those of two great world religions to put their faith into action, for us to live our faiths in our daily lives, to share our understanding, our insights, in a respectful, kindly way but, most importantly, to put faith into action.

For Muslims, Ramadan is a period that offers an opportunity to reflect upon their faith and to appreciate their blessings. It is a time of fasting to empathize and share food with those in need.

For Christians, Lent is a time of reflection upon our faith, of seeking to ‘put our own house in order’, to look inwards of course, at ourselves, but also to look outwards upon the world and others with new perspective: to appreciate our lives, our faith and, hopefully, to put our new heart or perspectives, our revitalised faith, the ‘fire’ that we hopefully kindle in our hearts, into action.

We are a Church of Easter, a faith of light, of life. That light, that fire is in each and every one of us. Let us remember those who have gone before us in faith but let us kindle that light, our light of faith in our hearts and, most importantly, let it shine!

 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).

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| **Week commencing 16th March**  |
| Sunday 16th March **Second Sunday of Lent**  | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish Eileen Fidler (Sick) |
| Monday 17th March **Feast of St Patrick**  |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 18th March **Tuesday week two of Lent**  | P/E | 10 am | Elaine Morley (RIP) |
| Wednesday 19th March **Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  | C/T | 10 am | Margaret Jackson (Sick) |
| Thursday 20th March **Thursday week two of Lent**  | P/E | 10 am | Richard Connolly (Ann) |
| Friday 21st March **Friday week two of Lent**  | C/TP/E | 10 am10.30 am7 pm  | Lawrence Karalius (RIP)Stations of the CrossStations of the Cross |
| Saturday 22nd March **Saturday week two of Lent**  | C/T | 10 am10.45 am | Hugh Shannon (RIP)Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 23rd March **Third Sunday of Lent** | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish Special Intention |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father**

From a bright cloud, the Father’s voice was heard:

“This is my beloved Son, listen to him.”

**Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father**

**Communion Antiphon**:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased, listen to him.

**Offertory Collection:** Last week offertory collection was £242.89.

**Special Collection for Spiritans:** That took place on 16th February was £383.00.

**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).

**Family Fast Day:** Please return your donation envelopes by Sunday 23rd March.

**SVP Spring Coffee Morning:**  Spring Coffee Morning social will be held on Saturday, 12th April, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm at St Columba’s Hall. The SVP Conference are organising this get-together to help top up their funds. Tickets will be on sale soon £2 for adults’ children free this includes tea/coffee soft drinks and biscuits. The demands for help grow each year so many families and individuals struggle to maintain a basic lifestyle. All our requests for help are through professionals and those in the care sector. Please come along and bring a friend, perhaps buy a raffle ticket and some homemade cakes or savouries.

**Pope Francis’s Message for Lent 2025** is “Let Us Journey Together in Hope.” This year's Lenten season begins on 5 March, Ash Wednesday, and ends on 17 April, Holy Thursday. The Jubilee 2025 theme, “Pilgrims of Hope”, inspires the Holy Father's Message.

 “This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community,” Pope Francis writes.

 In his Message, the Holy Father underlines that to journey “evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land” and adds that “a first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life”, as we reflected during [World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024](https://www.humandevelopment.va/en/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html).

Secondly, the Pope underlines that this journey is made together. He explains that “Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers”; it is necessary “to walk together, to be synodal” because “this is the vocation of the Church”.

In conclusion, the Holy Father affirms that it is necessary “to journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise”, in that “hope does not disappoint” (Rom 5:5).

This is the third call to conversion, which is the central message of the Jubilee, “a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life”. For this reason, the Pope encourages us so that hope “may be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter”.

 **Pope Francis.**

**Mass Intentions:**  Eileen Fidler, Elaine Morley, Margaret Jackson, Richard Connolly, Lawrence Karalius, Hugh Shannon, Maureen Harman, Archie Collister, and Special Intention.

**Parish Diary**

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| **17th March** **7 pm** | Quiz and Hot Pot Supper for Leprosy Mission at Promenade Methodist Church Douglas. |
| **12th April** **10.30 am to 12.30 pm** | SVP Spring Coffee morning at St Columba’s Hall.  |
| **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  |
| 7th April  | Easter flowers for churches |
| 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)*