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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

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

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**Deacons:** Rev. Alan Molloy a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk

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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 23rd March** | | | |
| Sunday 23rd March  **Third Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Special Intention |
| Monday 24th March  **Monday week three of Lent** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 25th March  **Solemnity of the Annu** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Wednesday 26th t March  **Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 27th March  **Thursday week two of Lent** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Friday 28th March  **Friday week two of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 10 am  10.30 am  7 pm | Stations of the Cross  Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 29th March  **Saturday week two of Lent** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 20th March  **Fourth Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

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**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.

**Next Sunday:** There will be a second **c**ollection next Sunday for the Nugent Society.

**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).

**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.

**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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| **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)*