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

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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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](mailto:g.easton@rcaol.org.uk)

**Laetare Sunday:**

Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, stands out as a moment of joy and encouragement during a season that is otherwise solemn and penitential. The term "Laetare" comes from the Latin word meaning “rejoice,” which is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass: “Laetare, Jerusalem: et conventum facite, omnes qui diligitis eam…” (“Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together, all you who love her…”). This call to rejoice echoes the sentiment found in Philippians 4:4, where Paul urges, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.”

Laetare Sunday is a significant moment during Lent, providing a brief respite from penance and serving as a joyful anticipation of the grand celebration of Easter. This sentiment is reminiscent of Psalm 30:5, which shares, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” It reminds us that the suffering of Lent leads to the glory of Christ’s Resurrection, as highlighted in John 16:20: “You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.”

Like Gaudete Sunday in Advent, Laetare Sunday offers a joyful pause within a penitential season. Both Sundays serve as occasions for reflection and anticipation, reminding us that the hardships of the season ultimately lead to the profound joy of the Resurrection. This hope is beautifully captured in Romans 6:4: “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

As we celebrate Laetare Sunday, let us reflect on the joy that comes from our faith. How can we carry this joy into our daily lives and share it with others? Happy Laetare Sunday, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice” (Phil.4:4)

**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 30th March** | | | |
| Sunday 30th March  **Fourth Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Archie Collister (RIP) |
| Monday 31st March  **Monday Week Four of Lent** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 1st April  **Tuesday Week Four of Lent** | P/E | 10 am | Doreen Short (RIP) |
| Wednesday 2nd April  **Wednesday Week Four of Lent** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 3rd April  **Thursday Week Four of Lent** | P/E | 10 am | Vincent Gillespie (RIP) |
| Friday 4th April  **Friday Week Four of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 10 am  10.30 am  7 pm | Stations of the Cross  Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 5th April  **Saturday Week Four of Lent** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 30th March  **Fifth Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Francis Easton (Sick) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,

“Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you”.

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**Communion Antiphon**:

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life.

He has lost and is found.

**Offertory Collection**: Last week offertory collection was £251.16.

**Second Collection**:Today there will be a second **c**ollection 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**: The SVP Conference are organising this social get-together to help top up their funds. Raffle prizes and homemade bakes and easter eggs are needed and will be very welcome. We are having a small gift stall if you have any unwanted gifts we can recycle. Tickets 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.

**Holy Week Services**

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| **Holy Thursday** | 10 am  7 pm P/E | Morning Prayers in both churches.  Mass of Last Supper. |
| **Good Friday** | 10 am  3 pm P/E | Morning Prayers in both churches.  Service of the Lord’s Passion. |
| **Easter Saturday** | 10 am  7 pm C/T | Morning Prayers in both churches.  Easter Vigil Mass. |
| **Easter Sunday** | Masses at normal times in both churches. |  |

**Holy Week**: Meadowside Choral Society will be commemorating Holy week by singing Stainer’s Crucifixion. A beautiful way to contemplate the Lenten message and hear uplifting music. Palm Sunday at Mount Tabor Church Port St Mary starting at 6.30 pm .Good Friday at Arbory Church. 6.30 pm.

**Confirmation:** Parents wishing their child to be confirmed please pick up registration form from the parish office at Castletown. The completed form along with a photocopy of the Baptism certificate to be returned by the 7th of April.

**Mass Intentions:** Vincent Gillespie, Doreen Short, and Francis Easton.

**Parish Diary**

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| **12th April**  **10.30 am to 12.30 pm** | SVP Spring Coffee morning at St Columba’s Hall. |
| **13th April**  **6.30 pm** | Stainer’s Crucifixion at Mount Tabor Church Port St Mary. |
| **18th April**  **6.30 pm** | Stainer’s Crucifixion at Arbory Church. |
| **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 June**

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| 6th April | Easter flowers for churches |
| 18th April | Holy Places |
| 11th May | Priests’ Training Fund |
| 1st June | World Communications |
| 15th June | Day for Life |
| 29th June | Peter’s Pence |

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

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