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

**First 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)

**Lent and the meaning of Ash Wednesday**

I was across for a family funeral on Ash Wednesday which gave me the opportunity to attend Mass without a liturgical role and thus really focus on the words. Coincidentally, I was at Mass in the parish of the one Deacon from my year in the Wrexham Diocese and he certainly gave me a good mark with ashes.

The Ash Wednesday Collect says:

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.

It struck me that this perfectly summed up why we fast. It is not as some form of masochistic self-harm. It is so that when we go out to do our Christian service – which is what we’re called to do by our baptism – we will have developed self-restraint which will help us overcome the evils which would seek to distract us from that service.

The prayer that the priest then says as he blesses the ashes is:

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery.

The more I look at that, the more powerful it becomes. God responds with forgiveness to works of penance. We then ask God to hear our prayers and pour out his blessing on us so that through our Lenten observances we may be ready to celebrate Easter. We are an Easter people, and it is right that we have a big celebration at Easter. But any celebration requires proper preparation, and we are given the six weeks of Lent each year to prepare spiritually for both Easter and the second coming when we will see our Lord in all his glory.

How are you going to prepare spiritually this Lent?

**Deacon Graeme**

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 9th March** | | | |
| Sunday 9th March  First Sunday of Lent | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | Eleanor Smith (RIP)  People of the Parish |
| Monday 10th March  Monday week one of Lent |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 11th March  Tuesday week one of Lent | P/E | 10 am | **Eucharistic Service** |
| Wednesday 12th March  Wednesday week one of Lent | C/T | 10 am | No Mass |
| Thursday 13th March  **Thursday week one of Lent** | P/E | 10 am | Collister Family |
| Friday 14th March  **Friday week one of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 10 am  10.30 am  7 pm | Maria Nakitto (RIP)  Stations of the Cross  Stations of the Cross |
| Saturday 15th March  **Saturday week one of Lent** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Gerry O’Toole (Ann)  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 16th March  **Second Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Eileen Fidler (Sick) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Glory and praise to you, O Christ**

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God

**Glory and praise to you. O Christ**

**Communion Antiphon**:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth

from the mouth of God.

**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).

**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 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*.*

**Family Fast Day:** Dear Fellow Parishioners, please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and become a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. Please return donation envelopes by Sunday, 23rd March. Many thanks.   
  
**SVP Spring Coffee Morning A** 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:**  Eleanor Smith, Collister Family, Gerry O’Toole, Eileen Fidler, Hugh Shannon, Elaine Morley, Margaret Jackson, and Maria Nakitto.

**Parish Diary**

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| **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. |
| **12th April**  **10.30am to 12.30pm** | 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 |
| 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)*