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

**Easter Sunday**

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**The Passion, Resurrection, and the Triumph of Love, Faith, and Hope**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we celebrate the joy of Easter, we are once again reminded of the profound mystery of Christ’s Passion and Resurrection—a journey where suffering is transformed into glory, death is overcome by life, and divine love triumphs.

In Christ’s Passion, we witness the deepest expression of love—a love that gives everything for the sake of others. Jesus embraced the cross not out of obligation, but from pure, self-giving love for each of us. The Resurrection, in turn, serves as the foundation of our faith; it is proof that God’s promises are true, and that death is not the end. In both the cross and the empty tomb, we find enduring hope: the hope that light always follows darkness, and that God continuously brings new life, even when we cannot yet see it.

This Easter, we are not only witnesses to this mystery—we are participants in it. I wish to extend my deepest thanks to all who made our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so beautiful and meaningful.

To those who prepared the Triduum liturgies with such care and reverence,

To those who lovingly decorated the church and created a space that lifts our hearts to heaven,

To our musicians, servers, lectors, ministers, and all who served behind the scenes,

Thank you to all of you—our parish family—who came together to worship, pray, and rejoice.

Your presence, service, and faith make this parish a living witness to the Risen Lord. May the joy of Easter fill your hearts with love, strengthen your faith, and renew your hope.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

With Easter blessings, 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 20th April** | | | |
| Sunday 20th April  **Easter Sunday** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish |
| Monday 21st April  **Monday within Octave of Easter** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 22nd April  **Tuesday within Octave of Easter** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Wednesday 23rd April  **Wednesday within Octave of Easter** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 24th April  **Thursday within Octave of Easter** | P/E | 10 am  10.45 am | Confession |
| Friday 25th April  **Friday within Octave of Easter** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 26th April  **Saturday within Octave of Easter** | C/T |  | No Mass |
| Sunday 27th April  **Second Sunday of Easter** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore

Celebrate the festival in the Lord.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon**:

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore, let us keep the feast with the unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.

**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)

**Offertory Collection:** Last week offertory collection was £245.58. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Lourdes:** The Liverpool Archdiocese pilgrimage to Lourdes this year will take place from 24th July to 31st July. If you are interested, please see the posters at the back of both churches.

**Jubilee Year**: On Saturday, 26th April, in as part of the parish activities commemorating the Jubilee year, a talk entitled “PILGRIMS OF HOPE” will be held. To assist with catering arrangements, we kindly ask that anyone planning to attend this event complete the form located at the back of both churches.

**Praying The Keeills Week.** The Praying The Keeills week will take place from 17th May to 24th May. This year's theme focuses on Archibald Knox, the renowned Manx artist and designer.

**Further Jubilee Activities:**

1. On Saturday, 16th August, we will hold our procession and Open-Air Mass at Rushen Abbey. This event will celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, which was originally scheduled for the previous day, as we could not secure a date in May.
2. We are negotiating with Manx National Heritage to hold a service at the Chapel on St. Michael’s Isle. Further details to follow.
3. We are considering a day trip to Liverpool on Sunday, 6th July (Tynwald weekend so no school the next day) as a pilgrimage to the Metropolitan Cathedral. We would go on the morning boat to Liverpool with a bus to the Cathedral for sung High Mass at 11.00. We have been invited to participate in the offertory procession. After Mass we would have a guided tour of the Cathedral. The afternoon would be free, or activities could be arranged depending on numbers. There is a concert in the Cathedral that afternoon with the joint choirs of the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals (there is an entrance fee). We would return on the evening boat from Liverpool. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Graeme so that we can see if it is worth taking further.

**Parish Diary**

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| 26th April  10 am | “PILGRIMS OF HOPE” talk by Rev. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, CSSP, in St Columba’s Hall. |
| 10th May  10 am | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill. The theme is “ Where the Rubber Meets the Road with Rev DeeDee Haines. |
| 11th May  11 am | Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba’s. |
| 17th - 24th May | Praying The Keeills Week. |
| 18th May  11 am | First Communion Mass. |
| 16th August  Afternoon | Procession and open-air Mass at Rushen Abbey. |
| 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 September

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| 18th April | Holy Places |
| 11th May | Priests’ Training Fund |
| 1st June | World Communications |
| 15th June | Day for Life |
| 29th June | Peter’s Pence |
| 20th July | Priests in Retirement |
| 14th September | Catholic Education |
| 21st September | Evangelii Gaudium |

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

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