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

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Email:**  stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk

**Phone:** 01624 822272

**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

**Pope Francis: Death and Key Teachings**

On Monday, April 21st 2025, the Camerlengo verified Pope Francis's death. At 7:35 a.m., the bells tolled at the Vatican, and the Holy See Press Office publicly announced his passing. The Papal Ring of the Fisherman was destroyed to prevent any potential forgery of documents. From that moment on, the mourning period began, and the seat became vacant, designated as “Sede Vacante.” The papal apartment was sealed, and the Camerlengo assumed administrative duties; however, he did not govern the Church spiritually, as that authority remained vacant until a new pope was elected. Pope Francis emphasized several key teachings that shaped the universal Church during his papacy. Here’s a summary: Mercy and Compassion: The message of God’s mercy is central to his teaching. From 2015 to 2016, he declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy and consistently highlighted the importance of forgiveness, compassion, and pastoral care over strict legalism. Care for the Poor and Marginalized: He urged the Church to become a “Church for the poor,” emphasizing care for the homeless, migrants, the sick, and the socially excluded. Environmental Responsibility: In his encyclical, Laudato Si’ (2015), Pope Francis taught that caring for creation is a moral and spiritual duty, linking ecological degradation to economic and social injustice. Synodality and Dialogue: He promoted a synodal Church that listens, includes, and walks together. This approach involved engaging laypeople in Church discussions, particularly women and young people. Joy of the Gospel: His first primary document, Evangelii Gaudium (2013), encouraged Christians to live and spread the Gospel joyfully rather than see it as a burden. Pastoral Approach to Moral Issues: Instead of changing doctrine, he emphasized discernment, accompaniment, and compassion, especially on issues like family life and divorce, as reflected in Amoris Laetitia (2016).Peace and Global Solidarity: Pope Francis often spoke against war, the arms trade, and nationalism, calling for dialogue, diplomacy, and solidarity among nations and religions.

In summary, Pope Francis envisioned a Church rooted in mercy, service, dialogue, and care for people and the planet.

May he rest in eternal peace, and may his spirit continue to guide and inspire us.

 **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 27th April**  |
| Sunday 27th April **Second Sunday of Easter**  | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | Pope Francis (RIP)People of the Parish |
| Monday 28th April **Solemnity of St George**  |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 29th April **Feast of St Catherine of Siena** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Wednesday 30th April **Wednesday week two of Easter**  | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 1st May **Thursday week two of Easter**  | P/E | 10 am10.45 am | Confession  |
| Friday 2nd May**Memorial of St Athanasius** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 3rd May **Feast of SS Philip and James**  | C/T | 10 am10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of RushenAdoration and Confession  |
| Sunday 4th May **Third Sunday of Easter**  | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish  |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Give praise to the Lord for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, 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 £431.03. Collection for Holy Places £201.66 and Lenten Alms £47.70. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Welcome:** We welcomed Fr Mulcahy yesterday for his talk on the topic of 'Hope'. His message is one that should touch all our hearts, especially poignant given Pope Francis' death last Monday.  Today, Sunday,  Fr Mulcahy is our main celebrant at Mass, when we can all welcome and share with him in our Eucharistic celebration.

**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.

**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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| 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. |
| 18th May | Food bank collection in both churches. |
| 17th - 24th May | Praying The Keeills Week. |
| 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. |
| 16th August Afternoon | Procession and open-air Mass at Rushen Abbey. |
| 13th September7 pm to 9.30 pm | Parish Barn Dance at St Columba’s Hall.  |
| 14th December3 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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| 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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