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

**Fifth 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

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**Churches Alive in Mann – Statement on the Assisted Dying Bill**

With sadness and deep concern, we note that the Assisted Dying Bill will now pass into law. Churches Alive in Mann, representing all the main Christian denominations on the Island, has worked over the last three years to raise our strong misgivings. Mindful of the strength of feeling on all sides we have sought to work carefully and constructively, including through contributions to the debates made by  Bishop Tricia, and before her, Bishop Peter. Through numerous public meetings, engagement with our MHKs and MLCs and through lobbying, we have spoken as Church leaders with one voice against the Bill, for both pastoral and moral reasons. **Pastoral Concerns** The Tynwald debate as this Bill progressed towards law has done nothing to lessen our pastoral concerns, particularly for the most vulnerable members of Manx society. The very existence of this legislation will inevitably cause some  of our elderly, disabled or vulnerable people to feel more of a burden. More worrying still, and despite legislative amendments, we believe there is very little effective provision to guard against coercion. While we recognise the intent to provide training for the medical professionals involved, we believe that the involvement of a person trained in spotting coercion, such as a social worker or advocate, would provide greater safeguards. We very much hope and request that opportunities to include this be pursued in the implementation of this legislation. **Moral Concerns** For thousands of years, ‘Do not kill’ has been an ethical foundation for many civilisations. We believe that all human life is a sacred gift from God. The value of any member of our society is not determined by variable measures of the quality of life. The premature ending of individual lives will inevitably diminish the high value we place on all lives. **Working for our Common Good** We are grateful for the members of our Churches and people of goodwill across the Island who have stood against the Bill. We also recognise that many, in good conscience, take a different view. Our hope is that, in this divisive area, we can all recognise that our disagreements are over issues, rather than between people. As secondary legislation, regulations and codes of practice are now developed, we will do all we can to work for the protection and care of all in Manx society, and especially the voiceless and the vulnerable. We urge the members of Tynwald to follow through with their expressed intent to ensure these protections are addressed and enshrined in practice. As a group of Christian Churches on the Isle of Man, we seek to work together and support each other in mission wherever we can. Churches Alive in Mann represents the following Churches: Church of England, Methodist Church, Catholic Church, United Reformed Church, Living Hope, Elim Onchan, Salvation Army, Broadway Baptist. Further information at [www.churchesalive.im](http://www.churchesalive.im/).

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 6th April** | | | |
| Sunday 6th April  **Fifth Sunday of Lent** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Frances Easton (Sick) |
| Monday 7th April  **Monday Week Five of Lent** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 8th April l  **Tuesday Week Five of Lent** | P/E | 10 am | Elaine Morley (RIP) |
| Wednesday 9th April  **Wednesday Week Five of Lent** | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Thursday 10th April  **Thursday Week Five of Lent** | P/E | 10 am |  |
| Friday 11th April  **Friday Week Five of Lent** | C/T | 6.30 pm  7 pm | Individual Confessions  Mass of Reconciliation |
| Saturday 12th April  **Saturday Week Five of Lent** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 13h March  **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | Maureen Briers (RIP)  People of the Parish |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Glory to you, O Christ , Son of the living God.**

Even now, says the Lord return to me with all your heart,

for I am gracious and merciful. .

**Glory to you, O Christ , Son of the living God.**

**Communion Antiphon**:

Has no one condemned you, woman? No on, Lord

Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more..

**Offertory Collection**: Last week offertory collection was 200.86 and the second collection for Nugent £168.23.

**Second Collection**:Today there will be a second **c**ollection for Easter flowers for both churches.

**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**: SVP Coffee Morning next Saturday 12th April. Please come along and support if you can 10.30am finishing at 12.30pm. Enjoy this social event, bring a friend £2 entry if you haven’t bought a ticket children free. Raffle prizes will be very welcome and of course home baking or chocolate  eggs. On Friday 11th the hall will be open between 2 to 4 pm to accept donations phone Pauline on 834514’

**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. |
| **Holy Saturday** | 10 am  7 pm C/T | Morning Prayers in both churches.  Easter Vigil Mass. |
| **Easter Sunday** | 9 am C/T  11 am P/E | Easter Day Mass  Easter Day Mass |

**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.

**Individual Confessions** At St. Mary’s Church, Castletown, on Friday, April 11th at 6:30 pm , we will have the opportunity for individual confession, a chance to cleanse our souls and prepare for the joy of the Easter festivities. The uplifting Mass of Reconciliation will follow this at 7:00 PM. You are all warmly invited to participate in these meaningful liturgical celebrations. Please note that there will be no morning Mass on Friday 11th April.

**Mass Intentions:** Maureen Briers and Elaine Morley

**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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| 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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