

St. Mary's & St. Columba's Parish Newsletter

Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

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The Hail Mary

Many of my non-Catholic Christian friends ask me why we pray to Mary rather than God. The simple answer is that we don't. We ask Mary, as with the other saints, to pray for us. It is interesting how those same Christians will happily ask their friends to pray for them but struggle with asking Saints to pray for them. Whilst we may get preoccupied, the Saints are able to focus all their time on prayer.

Consider the Hail Mary. The first half is straight from St. Luke's Gospel and combines the greeting that the angel Gabriel gives to Mary when he tells her she is to bear the Son of God and the greeting of Elizabeth when Mary goes to see her:

Greetings, favoured one. The Lord is with you (Luke 1:28)

Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! (Luke 1:42)

Elizabeth is the first in a long succession of generations to call Mary blessed and in the Hail Mary we continue that tradition.

In the second half of the prayer, we place our needs before Mary. While pregnant, Mary went to help her cousin Elizabeth who asked "Why should the mother of my Lord come to me?" We might ask the same question: "Why should Mary help me?" By giving us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her.

In asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners. There are only two times in our life that matter: now and the hour of our death. We ask Mary to pray for us now, but also to be there when we die as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise.

As it says in the Catechism: Because of Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, to magnify with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and to entrust supplications and praises to her. (CCC 2682)

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).

Week commencing 27th October			
Sunday 27 th October Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Mary, John, and Frank Hutchinson (Ann)
Monday 28 th October Feast of Saints Simon and Jude Apostles			No Mass
Tuesday 29 th October Weekday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	
Wednesday 30 th October Weekday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 31 st October Weekday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	Dr Noreen Nelson (Sick Confession)
Friday 1 st November Solemnity of All Saints	P/E C/T	10 am 7 pm	Rod Jacques (RIP)
Saturday 2 nd November Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	All the Faithful Departed Adoration and Confession
Sunday 3 rd November Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Marie Burke (Ann) People of the Parish

Responsorial Psalm:

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the light of the world, says the Lord
Anyone who follows me
will have the light of life

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

Offering Collection: Last week's offertory collection was £200.41.

Second Collection: Last week's second collection for APF World Missions was £213.04.

Holy Day of Obligation Please remember that Friday 1st November is All Saints Day so is a Holy Day of Obligation the Mass times are 10 am (P/E) and 7 pm (C/T)

Anniversary Mass: There will be a Mass on Thursday 7th November at 7 pm to mark the first anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral church of St Mary of the Isle as Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese.

Food Bank Collection: This Sunday there will be a collection for the food bank, and the collection point will be at the back of both churches.

Accident Reporting: As a Parish, we need (and are required) to keep a record of all accidents (to individuals) that occur on or in our premises. There is an Accident Reporting Book kept in the Sacristy of both churches (Castletown + Port Erin). If an accident occurs to an individual, please ensure that a new report (in the Logbook) is made and that either Fr. Joseph or one of our Deacons is made aware of it so that, as a Parish, we record and follow-up on the matter.

Eucharistic Ministers Training: An introductory training session for new Eucharistic Ministers will be scheduled in the near future. A suitable date will be determined. All newly commissioned Ministers are requested to provide Deacon Alan with their contact information (email/phone) to facilitate the arrangements. Once the date is finalised, a notice will be announced to inform any current Ministers who may wish to attend.

Month of the Holy Souls November Deceased List: Envelopes are available in both churches. Please include the names of your deceased parents, relatives, friends, and anyone else for whom you wish to pray inside the envelope. Holy Mass will be celebrated for them daily throughout the month of November. Kindly return the envelope at your earliest convenience by placing it in the box located in front of the Altar. Your offering or Mass intention should be included in this envelope. Masses for our deceased relatives and friends are scheduled for 13th November at St. Mary's and 14th November at St. Columba's, both commencing at 7 PM to accommodate those who are working.

Mass Intentions: Marie Burke, Mary, John, and Frank Hutchinson, Rod Jacques, and Dr Noreen Nelson.

Parish Diary:

1st November	All Saints Day, Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at 10 am (P/E) and 7 pm (C/T)
9th November 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill. The theme is "Good News for the Poor." The speaker is Chris Lane.
9th November 10 am	Reader's Training in St Columba's.
10th November 12 pm to 4 pm	Fair Trade sale and homemade soup and bread lunches. Proceeds of lunch going to help the Loreto Sisters work in Albania.
13th November 7 pm C/T 14th November 7 pm P/E	Masses for our deceased relatives and friends.
17th November 2 pm	Reader's training in St Mary's.
30th November 11 am to 1 pm	Christmas Fayre at St Columba's Hall.
7th December 10 am to 12.30 pm	Christmas Wreath making class at St Columba's Hall.
15th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service at St. Columba's Church.
11th May 2025 11 am	Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba's.
18th May 11 am	First Communion Mass.

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 for 2024

24 th November	Animate Youth
8 th December	Christmas flowers for both churches

Archdiocese of Liverpool A charitable incorporated organisation (registered charity number 1199714)