

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



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Honouring Our Grandparents and the Elderly: A Biblical Perspective.

Today we celebrate the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. As we reflect on the vital roles of grandparents and the elderly, we must recognize how the Bible honours and reveres these figures. Scripture highlights grandparents as invaluable transmitters of faith and values. Take, for instance, the example of Timothy, whose faith lineage is rooted in his grandmother Lois (2 Tim 1:15ff), which illustrates grandparents' profound influence. Their wisdom and spiritual authority shape the faith of future generations, as seen in Jacob's blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh. (Gen 48:14-16)

The elderly, in turn, are portrayed as pillars of wisdom within a community. Proverbs tell us that "grey hair is a crown of glory" (Prov. 16:31ff), and Job reminds us that wisdom is often found among the aged. (Job 12:12ff) These passages affirm that ageing is not merely a decline but a time of dignity and respect. We are called to revere our elders, recognizing that their experiences and insights enrich our lives.

Moreover, the Bible emphasizes our responsibilities towards the elderly, urging families and communities to care for them. 1Tim 5:4 encourages the younger generation to practice their faith by looking after their ageing relatives, reinforcing that caring for them is a moral and spiritual duty. The wisdom from Sirach 3:12-13 is, "My child, help your parents in their old age, and don't grieve them as long as they live... even if their mind fails, be patient with them." Sirach urges patience and compassion when looking after ageing parents, reminding us of the beautiful duty to honour them through our actions.

Lastly, we must remember that the elderly are not withdrawn from productivity. Psalm 92:14 celebrates the idea that they "still bear fruit in old age," highlighting that their contributions are still vital in God's plan. As we celebrate our grandparents and elderly loved ones, let us cherish their wisdom and faith, allowing their legacies to inspire our journeys. In honouring them, we honour the faithfulness of God throughout the generations.

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).

Week commencing 3rd August			
Sunday 3 rd August Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Robert Preston (Ann) People of the Parish
Monday 4 th August Memorial of St John Vianney			No Mass
Tuesday 5 th August Weekday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	
Wednesday 6 th August Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 7 th August Weekday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	Confessions
Friday 8 th August Memorial of St Dominic	C/T	10 am	
Saturday 9 th August Feast of St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 10 th August Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

You have given us, O Lord, bread for heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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 Sunday the offertory collection was £265.50
Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debit and in Mass.

Rushen Abbey Open Air Mass: As one of the activities of the Jubilee year an Open-air Mass will be held on Saturday 16th August at 3pm. The main celebrant will be Rev Mgr. John Devine. There have been invitations sent of other parishes and other denominations to join our parish in this open-air Mass.

Mass Intentions: Special Intention, Sr Anne Marie, Lily Bradley, Robert Preston, Port St Mary Beach Mission, Marsha Pitao-Cubbon, Louise Heaney, Doyle and Ross family, and Gary Heaney.

Parish Diary

16 th August 3 pm	Open-air Mass at Rushen Abbey.
13 th September 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John's Mill with Steven Hoyland. The theme is "Who do you say that I am?"
13 th September 7 pm to 9.30 pm	Parish Barn Dance at St Columba's Hall.
6 th December 9am to 12pm	Christmas wreath making class at St Columba's Hall.
14 th 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 Deacon 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 the year

14 th September	Catholic Education
28 th September	Evangelii Gaudium
19 th October	APF World Missions
23 rd November	Animate Youth

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer"

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