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

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**The Rich Man and Lazarus: Lessons on Wealth and Grace**

“Woe ……. Others “ ( Amos 6:1-6) Woe to those at ease in Zion, feeling secure on the Mountain of Samaria, lying on beds of ivory, indulging in luxuries, while neglecting the plight of others. The text raises an important question: Is it a sin to be wealthy? Wealth can indeed be a blessing from God. Deuteronomy 8:18 reminds us, “Remember the Lord your God, for He gives you power to get wealth.” Proverbs 10:22 reinforces this notion: "The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.” When wealth is acquired honestly, through hard work, and used wisely, it can reflect God’s providence.

However, wealth also carries dangers. First Timothy 6:9-10 warns, “Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare... For the love of money is the root of all evil.” This craving can lead individuals away from their faith and into ruin.

In today's Gospel, a parable illustrates this dilemma through the story of a rich man and Lazarus. The rich man, dressed in costly garments and feasting lavishly daily, is not portrayed as evil, nor is he directly responsible for Lazarus's poverty. However, his failure to acknowledge Lazarus, who sat at his gate in need, highlights a critical flaw. The Gospel does not suggest that Lazarus was inherently good; his name signifies God’s help. Ultimately, Lazarus is carried to heaven, not because of his merit but because of God’s mercy.

This parable prompts us to reflect: Are we embodying the rich man, ignoring those in need, or are we more like Lazarus, relying on God’s grace? Our attitudes towards wealth and those around us matter profoundly. Let us emulate Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati for their deep love for people with low incomes and their dedication to putting social justice into action. They were canonized on September 7, 2025, by Pope Leo XIV. Tell the story of these young Saints to young people to learn how to love people with low incomes, balancing enjoyment of life with spiritual discipleship, charity, service and devotion to the Eucharist.

**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 28th September** | | | |
| Sunday 28th September  **Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Doyle, Ross, and Heaney families |
| Monday 29th September  **Feast of Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael** |  |  | No Mass |
| Tuesday 30th September  **Memorial of St Jerome** | P/E | 10 am | 175th Anniversary of restoration of Catholic Hierarchy.  Eileen Fidler (RIP) |
| Wednesday 1st October  **Memorial of St Therese of the Child of Jesus** | C/T | 10 am | Rita Smith (Sick) |
| Thursday 2nd October  **Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels** | P/E | 10 am  10.45 am | Terry Miles (80th Birthday)  Confessions |
| Friday 3rd October  **Friday in Ordinary Time** | C/T | 10 am | Thanksgiving Mass for Archbishop Malcolm Ministry |
| Saturday 4th October  **Memorial of St Francis of Assisi** | C/T | 10 am  10.45 am | Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen  Adoration and Confession |
| Sunday 5th October  **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/T  P/E | 9 am  11 am | People of the Parish  Annie Bannister |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

My soul, give praise of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

JesusChrist, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor,

so that you by his poverty might become rich.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

**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 £242.40. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Second Collection:** There will be a second collection for Catholic Education today.

**175th Anniversary:** On 29th September, we will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England and Wales, which also signifies the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. To celebrate this significant occasion, a Mass will be held at St Columba’s on Tuesday, 30th September at 10 am, dedicated to expressing gratitude for the gift and mission of our Catholic faith.

**Safeguarding Note Regarding Altar Servers:** Please note that Sacristans / Altar Server Chaperones / Parish Priest or any other volunteers should not be helping Altar Servers to dress, it would be advisable to have a short 10 to 15-minute session on how to wear the required Alb or Cassock and teach the children how to dress themselves. If under 18’s cannot do the belts we would advise not using them at all, you are able to double the belt over and hand to the server to just loop around their waist themselves but cannot do this for them. Most children can tie shoelaces and dress themselves in school after PE sessions so there should be no requirement for anyone in the parish to help a child/young person dress for Mass. If a child/young person has additional needs, please request that a parent/guardian assist them in dressing. If you have any queries relating to this matter, please speak directly with Claire in Safeguarding on 0151 522 1103 or email [c.newton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:c.newton@rcaol.org.uk).

**Thanksgiving Mass:** Everyone is welcome to the Thanksgiving Mass for Archbishop Malcolm Ministry which will at St Mary’s this Friday at 10 am

**Season of Creation**: From 1st September to 4th October, we are requested to pray for care of creation.

**Mass Intentions:** Eileen Fidler; Ross, Doyle, and Heaney families; Terry Miles; Rita Smith; William Lever; and Annie Bannister.

**Parish Diary**

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| 5th October  2 pm to 4 pm | Flower arranging classes at St Columba’s Hall. These classes will be held on 12th, 19th, 26th October and 2nd November |
| 11th October  10 am to 1 pm | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill with Revd David Smith. The theme is “God and Mammon” |
| 8th November  10 am to 1 pm | Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill with Darren Prince theme is “Community and Mission on the Margins” |
| 16th November  12 pm to 4 pm | Fairtrade Sale at St Columba’s Hall |
| 29th November  11 am to 1 pm | SVP Christmas Fayre at St Columba’s Hall |
| 6th December  10 am to 12 pm | Christmas wreath making class 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 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**

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| 19th October | Evangelii Gaudium |
| 2nd November | APF World Missions |
| 23rd November | Animate Youth |

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

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