

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



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Reflection for Prisons Week 2025

Prisons Week is an established initiative by the Churches in England and Wales to encourage us to focus once a year on people in prison, their families, victims and all those working with prisoners. The "Prisons Week Prayer" is included in this Newsletter. But why should we focus on prisons and prisoners?

Many UK prisons face serious overcrowding of cells and facilities, a scandal that has persisted for over 70 years. Conditions for both prisoners and staff are often poor with very limited regimes including too few opportunities for rehabilitation.

As Christians, what should be our approach to prisoners? St Matthew's Gospel Chapter 25 includes prisoners as one of those groups for whom Christians should demonstrate special care. Our care for prisoners is one of the tests to be applied to each of us on judgement day.

In practice, what can we do to help? Support the SVP because their work with families and individuals includes people at risk of offending. Supporting the SVP is crime prevention in practice. While our Jurby prison is quite new and well equipped, the Island's prison population has grown considerably in recent years. There is much to do to reduce offending and to keep people safe. Those of us with long experience of working with offenders know that the way to reduce re-offending by those released from prison is to have a positive regime with demanding programmes.

Many prisoners have previously been in care; have never attended school regularly and have poor experiences of family life. Many prisoners need to improve their literacy and numeracy; to develop skills and experience in order to obtain and keep jobs on release; to be challenged over addictions to drugs and alcohol. Many need to experience positive relationships especially with people in authority.

So, what should we reflect on during our prayers for Prisons Week? Carefully reviewing our own attitude to offenders should be a priority. Please remember the many volunteers and staff working with prisoners. Finally, Prisons Week seeks to reduce the number of victims of crime - we should pray for victims that they may experience the healing touch of God's grace.

Brendan O'Friel

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 12th October			
Sunday 12 th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T	9 am	Winnie Montgomery (Ann)
	P/E	11 am	Doreen Short (RIP) People of the Parish
Monday 13 th October Monday in Ordinary Time			No Mass
Tuesday 14 th October Tuesday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	James and Jane Cunningham and family For a parishioner who is having operation
Wednesday 15 th October Memorial of St Teresa of Jesus	C/T	10 am	Pat Rafferty (RIP)
Thursday 16 th October Thursday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am 10.45 am	William Lever (RIP) Confessions
Friday 17 th October Memorial of St Ignatius	C/T	10 am	
Saturday 18 th October Feast of St Luke	C/T	10 am 10 45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 19 th October Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Special Intention

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,
Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing

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)

Prisoners Week Prayer: Lord, you offer Freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love, mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his spirit now and every day. Amen.

Offertory Collection: In the future, we will share the total amount collected during the offertory at Masses on a monthly basis. Additionally, the contributions from any second collections for that month will be reported at the same time. We sincerely appreciate your generous support, whether through direct debit or during Mass.

Second Collection: There will be a second collection next Sunday for Evangelii Gaudium.

Thank You: A donation has been received of £1,000. With great thanks to the donor.

CAFOD: You are invited to a morning with CAFOD to hear about work made possible by Isle of Man support. John Woods, CAFOD representative in Liverpool Archdiocese, will share news about a current project providing access to safe water in Nigeria, as well as other aspects of CAFOD's work. There will also be a chance to reflect on how we can all be a tangible sign of hope in this Jubilee Year. This will take place on Saturday 18th October at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan 10 am to 12.30 pm. There will be coffee, biscuits and a chance to meet friends old and new.

The Rosary Prayer for Peace: The Holy Father has called upon everyone to pray the rosary daily throughout October for the sake of peace. The archbishop encourages our archdiocese community and parishes to unite in these daily prayers, focusing on peace within families and parish groups. At St. Mary and St. Columba, we will come together as a community to pray the rosary before each weekday and Sunday Mass, starting 20 minutes prior to the service. I invite everyone to join in this meaningful practice. May Our Lady, Queen of Peace, intercede for us all.

Mass Intentions: Doreen Short; William Lever; Winnie Montgomery; James and Jane Cunningham and family; Pat Rafferty; Sr. Michael Scott; Catherine Casserly; John, Mary, and Frank Hutchinson.

Parish Diary

18 th October 10 am to 12.30 pm	CAFOD morning with John Woods at St Anthony's Onchan
8 th 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"
16 th November 12 pm to 4 pm	Fairtrade Sale at St Columba's Hall
29 th November 11 am to 1 pm	SVP Christmas Fayre at St Columba's Hall
6 th December 10 am to 12 pm	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

19 th October	Evangelii Gaudium
2 nd November	APF World Missions
23 rd November	Animate Youth
14 th December	Christmas Flowers

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

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