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

 **Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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**Some thoughts on Parish Life**

Over the last couple of months, I have been away a lot, and I have been to Mass in nine different churches in five different dioceses. It has caused me to reflect about Parish Life. In my Mum’s parish in Bristol, the priest now has what was previously five parishes, and he’s looking after a sixth due to their priest being ill. He is assisted by a retired priest and a missionary priest on secondment. Total Sunday Mass attendance is around 1,500. I went to a church in Cumbria where the usual Mass attendance is about 35. It is served from another parish but is very independent – from the newsletters you wouldn’t know the other parish existed. It is a wonderful community run by the people for the people; the priest arrives, says Mass and goes.

On Mull, I drove 45 minutes to Mass (the only one on the Island). But the boat was cancelled so the priest couldn’t come and there was no Mass. On Iona, we were lucky there was a Priest on holiday/retreat, and we could have Mass every day. Last weekend I was at a wedding and then, on Sunday morning, Mass was celebrated by the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton for the induction of the new headteacher of their primary school. There was a vibrant congregation of around 300; the school provided a music group, but the Parish Priest commented that most of the time at all three of their weekend Masses he has to lead the singing himself with music from his phone; also, none of the altar servers had more than two years’ experience.

So, what do I take from all this? Each community and parish is unique. They cover vastly different areas and numbers of people; they each have their own challenges. Our challenges on the Isle of Man are no better or worse than elsewhere. Things work best when parishioners look after their parish and are active participants, allowing the Priest to do what only he can do – celebrate Mass and the Sacraments. Whilst we can always do more, I believe we are in a good position in our parish, but I would be very interested in your thoughts.

 **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).

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| **Week commencing 5th October** |
| Sunday 5th October**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | People of the Parish Annie Bannister |
| Monday 6th October**Monday in Ordinary Time** |  |  | No Mass  |
| Tuesday 7th October**Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary** | P/E | 10 am | Elaine Morley (RIP) |
| Wednesday 8th October**Wednesday in Ordinary Time** | C/T | 10 am | Special Intention |
| Thursday 9th October**Feast of St John Henry Newman** | P/E | 10 am10.45 am | Eileen Fidler (RIP)Confessions |
| Friday 10th October**Friday in Ordinary Time**  | C/T | 10 am |  |
| Saturday 11th October**Saturday in Ordinary Time** | C/T | 12 pm |  Rosary and Mass |
| Sunday 12th October**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | C/TP/E | 9 am11 am | Winnie Montogomery (Ann) Doreen Short (RIP) |

**Responsorial Psalm:**

O that today you would listen to his voice! “Harden not your hearts.”

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

The word of the Lord remains for ever

and this word is the good news that was preached to you.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

**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 £212.50. Catholic Education was £170.52. Thank you for your generous offerings both by direct debt and in Mass.

**Thank you:** A donation has been received of £500. 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 invited everyone to pray the rosary daily throughout October for peace. This initiative will culminate in a community prayer on October 11 in St. Peter's Square. During October, the archbishop encourages the archdiocese community and parishes to join in daily rosary prayers for peace within families and parish communities. Special emphasis is placed on 11th October with organized parish prayers. At St. Mary and St Columba, the rosary will be prayed as a community every time we gather for weekday and Sunday Masses, starting 20 minutes before each Mass. I urge everyone to participate actively. May our Lady, Queen of Peace, intercede for peace! As a Parish, on 11th October, at 12:00 PM, we will pray the rosary at St Mary's Church, Castletown, followed by Mass. All those who prepare the prayers of the faithful remember to include a prayer for peace.

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

**Mass Intentions:** Annie Bannister; Doreen Short; Eileen Fidler; Winnie Montogomery and Special Intention.

**Parish Diary**

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| 12th October2 pm to 4 pm | Flower arranging classes at St Columba’s Hall. These classes will be held on 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” |
| 18th 0ctober10 am to 12.30 pm | CAFOD morning with John Woods at St Anthony’s Onchan |
| 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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