

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

## Second Sunday after the Nativity



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**Parish Priest:** Father Joseph M. Kiganda, CSSp.

**In Community:** Father Augustine Ogbanna, CSSp. Asst. PP St. Mary's Douglas.

**Deacons:** Rev. Alan Molloy [a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:a.molloy@rcaol.org.uk)

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## Happy New Year 2026

Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year 2026! As we step into this new year, let us take a moment to reflect on the blessings of 2025 and express our gratitude to the Lord for allowing us to complete another year together.

Our parish community thrives because of your active participation in various aspects of church life. Your involvement is essential, whether it's attending liturgical celebrations, preparing for the liturgy, or assisting with the decoration and cleaning of our sacred space. Each act contributes significantly to the vibrant life of our parish.

We also appreciate your efforts to bring our community together through social events and to welcome both parishioners and visitors into our midst. The dedication of our church choirs enhances our worship experience, allowing us to connect more deeply with the Lord.

Financial contributions are another vital aspect of our community's health. Your generosity supports not only the needs of our parish but also the twelve obligatory collections and vital outreach programs such as the food bank and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). These organizations help meet the needs of those in our community who face economic challenges.

Moreover, I want to recognize those who care for our church grounds. Your work in planting trees and flowers, cutting the grass, and keeping the overall tidiness and attractiveness of our church property is deeply appreciated. It brings beauty to our space and creates an inviting environment for everyone.

Events such as the Annual Nativity Play serve as an excellent opportunity to bring our entire island community together, fostering camaraderie/ fellowship and joy during the pre-Christmas holiday season.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to continue being actively involved in our parish. Church life requires participation, and each of us plays a crucial role in creating a vibrant community of faith. Let 2026 be a year filled with energy, enthusiasm, and spiritual growth.

May this year be blessed for all of us!

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).

<b>Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>			
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Thanksgiving for request granted
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas</b>			No Mass
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</b>	P/E C/T	10 am 7 pm	Elaine Morley Ann Leckie
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas after the Epiphany</b>	C/T	10 am	Sandra McCairn
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas after the Epiphany</b>	P/E	10 am	Ruth Castillo
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas after the Epiphany</b>	C/T	10 am	Michael Reilly
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Weekday of Christmas after the Epiphany</b>	P/E	10 am	Requiem Mass for Olive Maher
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Mary and William Mc Gowan People of the Parish

### **Second Sunday of the Nativity**

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

#### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.

Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.

Alleluia.

**Communion Antiphon:**

To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

**Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord****Responsorial Psalm:**

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord.

**Alleluia**

**Communion Antiphon:**

We have seen his star in the East and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**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)

**When will the Jubilee close?** The Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," officially began on 24th December 2024. This start was marked by the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome, which is the traditional liturgical way the Catholic Church inaugurates a Jubilee Year.

In Rome: The Jubilee Year concludes on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January 2026.

St. Mary and St. Columba Parish, due to the absence of some parishioners and friends from the Island, the Parish Pastoral Council, with the approval of the Parish Administration Team, has decided to celebrate the conclusion of the Jubilee on March 1, 2026. The organizing team will provide the program as soon as possible.

**Offertory Collections:** The offertory collections for December amount to £1128.26. The second collection for the Christmas flowers for the churches was £355.43. We raised £600 for the Christmas envelopes. We will send a cheque of £300 to the Friends of the Holy Land. Thank you very much for your generosity.

**Thank you:** Fr Joseph and Fr Augustine would like to thank all the parishioners who sent Christmas greeting cards to them.

**Annual Holiday:** Fr Joseph is going on his annual holiday from 4<sup>th</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February. While Fr. Joseph is away Father Augustine Ogbonna will attend to all the liturgical needs of the parish, assisted by the Deacons and Brendan O'Friel.

**Island Spirituality Network:** On Saturday 10 January at St John’s Mill, 10 am-1 pm, Canon Philip Gillespie will be the guest speaker. His theme will be “There and Back Again – The Jubilee Year as Pilgrims into Hope.” The Jubilee Year 2025, proclaimed by Pope Francis, has just ended and its themes emphasized the journey of faith, spiritual renewal and forgiveness amidst global suffering from war, poverty, and crises, rooted in biblical tradition of debt relief and liberation, with a focus on peace, debt cancellation, and sharing faith. All are welcome.

**Sadness:** It is with sadness that we announce the death of Olive Maher. Her body will be received at St. Columba Church for a vigil service on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, at 6:30 pm. The Requiem Mass will be held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, at 10:00 am. May her soul rest in peace.

**Mass Intentions:** Elaine Morley, Thanksgiving for request granted, Ann Leckie, Mary and William Mc Gowan, Sandra McCairn, Michael Reilly, and Ruth Castillo.

### Parish Diary

10 <sup>th</sup> January 10 am to 1 pm	Island Spirituality Network at St John’s Mill with Canon Philip Gillespie, theme is “There and back again – The Jubilee Year as Pilgrims into Hope”
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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 from January to June

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Nugent
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Holy Places
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Priest Training Fund
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	World Communications
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Day for Life

**“Let us prepare the way for the Lord by making our hearts humble and ready to receive Him” St. Gregory the Great**

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

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