

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



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Email: stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk

Phone: 01624 822272

Website: www.manxcatholic.org

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

Rev. Graeme Easton g.easton@rcaol.org.uk

Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ

Good morning, dear brothers and sisters. It is wonderful to celebrate today the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How many of us have ever looked ourselves in the mirror, and had this thought, " If only I was a little better... then I would be truly worthy of love. " Maybe you have felt it after making a terrible mistake or when comparing yourself to someone else.

In the Gospel of today, Matthew 3, Jesus is baptised, and a voice declares him beloved. Here is what makes us worthy. Jesus didn't need baptism to be good, but he did it to stand with us, an indication that every one of us is loved as they are.

Recall that Jesus hadn't performed any miracle yet. He hadn't healed anyone or taught a single sermon, yet God was pleased with him. God never said you will be my beloved when you perform great acts. "No, the love was there before any achievement" and perfection.

Do you know that God sees you like that also? Isn't it wonderful?

When you have done something unimaginable that you know is shameful, when you have said something that you regret, when you are overburdened by family problems, your jobs and future, or when you feel that you don't measure up to anything good, remember that you are still His beloved.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that "God's servant brings light to the lost." Acts of the Apostles reminds us that God shows no favouritism. He loves all his creatures irrespective of the fact that their worth is not earned, according to Matthew. It is a gift from God. Jesus's identification with sinners paves the way for all to be welcomed into God's family with Jews and Gentiles alike.

Dear friends, carry this good news and truth with you. When doubt creeps in, stop and whisper to yourself, I am His beloved. Be filled with the love of the Father so that it will radiate to the other.

Remain blessed.

Fr Augustine

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 11th January 2026			
Sunday 11th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Mary and William Mc Gowan People of the Parish
Monday 12th January Monday in Ordinary Time			No Mass
Tuesday 13th January Tuesday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	Garry Heaney (Sick)
Wednesday 14th January Memorial of St Kentigern	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 15th January Thursday in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	Louise Heaney (RIP)
Friday 16th January Friday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	Ian James Younger (RIP)
Saturday 17th January Memorial of St Anthony	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 18th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Mary and James Doyle (RIP)

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Gospel Acclamation:

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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)

Annual Holiday: Fr Joseph is away on his annual holiday until 4th 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.

Jubilee Mass: On 1st March 2026, we will be marking the end of our Jubilee year, ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’ Father Joseph has proposed that this will be an interactive Mass in St. Columba, with both our congregations and people invited from other Catholic parishes. The idea is that individuals or groups, particularly from different nationalities, will take part in the readings, hymns, or show or tell us something from their culture, particularly, but not exclusively, with regard to work that has been done on the theme of “Hope.” This may only be a few minutes; for example, reading a letter of thanks, a poem, a song, or a prayer, etc. There are many good things happening in our parishes, such as the Foodbank, Fair Trade, Mary’s Meals, SVP, and many, many other ventures. It would be nice for a representative to share the good news. After the Mass, we will be having a faith luncheon. Hopefully, people will bring food from their home countries for everyone to share and enjoy. Please help support this initiative by offering to be involved in whatever way you can. Please contact suemagee@me.com as I will be sorting out a programme over the next month.

Parish Luncheon: This year's Parish luncheon will be held on Sunday, 8th February, at 2 pm at the Falcon Hotel, Port Erin. Numbers are limited to 45. Adult tickets are £24.50 and children's tickets are £13.50. The price is for two courses and includes a contribution towards Fr. Joseph and Fr. Augustine’s meals and a tip. For tickets, please speak to a Social Club Committee member.

Mass Intentions: Mary and James Doyle, Louise Heaney, Ian James Younger, Mary and William Mc Gowan, and Garry Heaney

Parish Diary

8 th February 2 pm	Parish luncheon at Falcon Hotel Port Erin
1 st March 11 am	Parish Jubilee Mass at St Columba's

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 th March	Nugent
Sunday 22 nd March	Easter flowers for the churches
Sunday 3 rd April	Holy Places
Sunday 26 th April	Priest Training Fund
Sunday 17 th May	World Communications
Sunday 21 st 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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