

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



Second Sunday of Lent

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HOPE

The theme of last year's Jubilee was Pilgrims of Hope and today we celebrate the Hope that we have within our own parish community. It may seem strange to celebrate during Lent, but that would be to misunderstand the season. Yes, Lent is a season of penance and fasting, but above all it is preparing ourselves to celebrate the greatest feast of the Church's year which is full of hope: Christ's resurrection at Easter.

Whilst many people give up something for Lent, a more positive way of looking at it might be to do something extra. Perhaps going to weekday Mass or the Stations of the Cross or consciously saying grace before meals or prayers before bed. As you listen to some of our Pilgrims of hope, consider what acts of charity you could do: maybe helping a neighbour or giving someone a lift; joining the SVP or Southern Befrienders; helping with the foodbank; promoting Fairtrade and the work of CAFOD; or, at a practical parish level, assisting with the cleaning, becoming a welcomer or any of the many other jobs that need doing.

As it says in Luke's Gospel: "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest will send out labourers into his harvest". Prayer is important, but God can only answer our prayers through us. Are we going to help? We do not need to come to church to pray; God is everywhere and we can pray anywhere. On the last day, we won't be judged on whether we went to Mass last Sunday, but did we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and prisoners. We come to Mass to be fed through the Word of God and our Lord's body in the Holy Eucharist. We come to support each other as a community. But above all, we come to Mass to be strengthened to go out into the world. The word Mass comes from the Latin dismissal "*ite missa est*" meaning "Go, you are dismissed" or "Go and do your mission". That is why at the end of Mass I like to use "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life" or "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord". The Mass is the start of our week as Christians, not the end.

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).

Week commencing 1st March 2026			
Sunday 1 st March Second Sunday of Lent	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish
Monday 2 nd March Monday in week two of Lent			No Mass
Tuesday 3 rd March Tuesday in week two of Lent	P/E	10 am	Elaine Morley (RIP)
Island wide Stations of the Cross	Douglas Online	2.30 pm 7 pm	In person https://tinyurl.com/3r53fut9
Wednesday 4 th March Wednesday in week two of Lent	C/T	10 am	
Thursday 5 th March Thursday in week two of Lent	P/E	10 am	Archie Collister (RIP)
Friday 6 th March Friday in week two of Lent	C/T C/T P/E	10 am 10.45 am 7 pm	Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross
Saturday 7 th March Saturday in week two of Lent	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Adoration and Confession
Sunday 8 th March Third Sunday of Lent	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Peter Newton (RIP)

Responsorial Psalm:

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glorify to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father’s voice was heard:

“This is my beloved son, listen to him”.

Glorify to you O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him

Message from the Parish Priest:

Beloved Parishioners, as we bring our Jubilee Year of Pilgrims of Hope to a joyful close, we open our hearts to a new parish year under the words of Jesus: **“ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU.”** (John 15:4) Hope has carried us forward; now Christ invites us to remain rooted in His love, His Presence, and His life.

With deep gratitude, we thank the Jubilee committee for their dedication, creativity, and generous service throughout this special year. And to all who have brought food, drinks, fruits, cakes, smiles, and joy today – thank you. Your kindness is a living sign of the communion we share in Christ.

May the hope that guided our pilgrimage continue to shine, and may this new year be one in which we truly abide in Him, as He abides in us.

So, this year 2026 our parish Theme is, **“ABIDE IN ME, AND I IN YOU.”** (John 15:4)
Fr. Joseph.

World Day of Prayer: World Day of Prayer service will take place on 6th March at St Columba’s. Refreshment in the church hall at 10 am followed by service in church at 11 am. Liturgy written by the women of Nigeria. All are welcome.

First Holy Communion: All children eight years of age and those who missed First Holy Communion last year are warmly invited to register for preparation of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Registration forms are available at the back of both churches. Kindly pick a form, complete it and return it with a copy of the child’s baptism certificate. We encourage parents and guardians to support their children in this important step of faith and spiritual growth. Thank you, and may God bless your families.

Stations of the Cross: In addition to the two in person services each Friday during Lent, there are two opportunities to join in Island wide services each week. On Tuesdays at 2.30pm there will be Stations of the Cross from St. Mary’s in Douglas. You can join this in person or via the livestream. There will be an online Stations via Zoom at 7pm each Tuesday. The link to join is <https://tinyurl.com/3r53fut9> or see Deacon Graeme for more information. You do not need Zoom on your phone or computer to access this.

Full communion with the Catholic Church: If you are considering becoming a Catholic, completing your Sacraments or being received into full communion with the Church, we warmly invite you to speak with one of the clergy or Catechists.

Thank you: The SVP committee would like to thank you all for your generous donations collected from the Jam Pots in 2025. This totalled £552 and has helped many local families in the south of the island. This was recommended to us by the Heath Visitors.

Mass Intentions: Elaine Morley, Archie Collister, Peter Newton, and Gerry O'Toole.

Parish Diary

6 th March 11 am	World Day of Prayer at St Columba's
6 th March 7 pm	Quiz and Hot Pot Supper at Promenade Methodist Church Loch Promenade Douglas for Leprosy Misson
27 th March 7 pm	Reconciliation Service at St. Columba's - including the opportunity for Individual Confessions.
25 th April 2 pm	Treasure Hunt at St Mary's
10 th May 11 am	Crowning of Our Lady during Mass at St Columba's
11 th July 11 am	Parish to Parish Walk
19 th September 6.30 to 9 pm	Barn Dance at St Columba's Hall
28 th November 11 am to 1 pm	SVP Christmas Fayre at St Columba's Hall
5 th December 10 am	Christmas Wreath Making Class at St Columba's Hall
13 th December 3 pm	Parish Nativity Service 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

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