

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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“Don't Be Afraid”

The Opening Prayer this Sunday asks God to “grant that we may always revere and love Your holy name,” a reminder that faith is not merely belief but a way of standing in the world with courage, trust, and fidelity. The readings show how this posture is formed not in comfort but in the very places where fear and uncertainty press in. In Jeremiah 20, the prophet faces whispers, betrayal, and threats. Yet amid this turmoil, he makes a bold act of faith: “The Lord is with me, like a mighty champion.” Jeremiah teaches us that courage is not born from easy circumstances, but from knowing who stands beside us. Fear loses its power when we are grounded in God's faithful presence.

The Psalm echoes this cry. The psalmist feels overwhelmed, misunderstood, and rejected, yet he turns to God with confidence: “Lord, answer me, for Your mercy is kind.” The psalm reminds us that God's love is not abstract. It is a refuge for the weary, a shelter for those who feel unseen or burdened. Even in distress, praise becomes an act of resistance against despair.

Second Reading, Paul widens the horizon. He speaks of the grace that enters the world through Christ, grace stronger than sin, stronger than fear, stronger than the brokenness we inherit. We are not defined by what threatens us but by the gift that has been poured out for us.

Finally, in today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to the human heart: “Do not be afraid.” And He names our fears; fear of rejection, fear of suffering, fear of being insignificant and answers each one with a deeper truth: we are known, valued, and held by the Father. Not even a sparrow falls without His care.

This Sunday invites us to live from that truth. To speak with Jeremiah's confidence, to pray with the psalmist's trust, to stand in Christ's grace, and to walk without fear, knowing we are always in the Father's hands.

Fr. Joseph

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 21st June			
Sunday 21 st June Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Private Intention
Monday 22 nd June Feast of St John Fisher and Thomas More			No Mass
Tuesday 23 rd June Tuesday week twelve in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	Louise Heaney (RIP)
Wednesday 24 th June Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist	C/T	10 am	Major Sykes (RIP)
Thursday 25 th June Thursday week twelve in Ordinary Time	P/E	10 am	Gerard Doyle (RIP)
Friday 26 th June Friday week twelve in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	Ann Guyler
Saturday 27 th June Saturday week Twelve of Ordinary Time.	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Confessions
Sunday 28 th June Solemnity of St Peter and Paul	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Private Intention

Responsorial Psalm:

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

The Spirit of the truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord

And you also will bear witness

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon:

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Prayer for Prisons Week: 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 activities 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 His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Second Collection. There will be a second collection today for Day in Life. Next Sunday there will be a second collection for Peter Pence.

Assisted Dying Demonstration: Your support for the silent demonstration outside Tynwald on Tuesday regarding the Assisted Dying Bill is greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who participated and showed their commitment to this important cause.

Father's Day: Wishing a Happy Father's Day to all fathers, including our priests who serve as Spiritual Fathers.

Misson Appeal: On Sunday 5th July the parish will be having a Mission appeal by the Augustinian Father's at all Masses.

Coffee Morning: The SVP would like to thank you for your continued support. With your help we have been able to help several young families in recent months. However, we now find it necessary to raise more funds. There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 4th July from 11 am to 1 pm. Boxes will be in the porch of both churches for unwanted gifts, and raffle prizes. The hall will be open on Friday 3rd July from 2 pm to receive cakes etc. Thanking you in anticipation and wishing you every blessing.

Parish to Parish walk: Join us for our annual Parish Walk on Saturday, July 11th. We will kick off the event at 11 am from St Mary's in Castletown, making our way to St Columba's via Scarlett. Once we arrive, enjoy delicious sausage baps and refreshments. The cost is £5 for adults and £3 for children. If you plan to attend, please inform any members of the social committee. Join us for an exciting summer parish event! We're hoping for beautiful weather, just like we had last year.

Mass Intentions: Brenda Lynch, Garry Heaney, Gerard Doyle and Louise Heaney.

Parish Diary

4 th July 11 am to 1 pm	SVP Coffee Morning at St Columba's Hall
5 th July	Mission appeal by the Augustinian Fathers
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 to the end of the year

Sunday 28 th June	Peter Pence
Sunday 19 th July	Priests in Retirement
Sunday 13 th September	Catholic Education
Sunday 20 th September	Home Missions
Sunday 18 th October	APF World Missions
Sunday 22 nd November	Animate Youth

Abide in Me, as I abide in you" (John 15.4)

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