

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

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Spider's Spiritual Lesson

Every morning, as I walk toward my car in Castletown, I find the same small scene waiting on the side mirror: a spider's web stretched across the glass. The strands are so fine you could miss them, yet they are beautifully arranged, short threads, long threads, all woven with patient care. And every morning, I do the same thing. I brush the web away so I can drive off. But the next day, without fail, the spider has rebuilt it. One morning I stopped and watched the little creature nearby, waiting quietly for me to finish breaking its work so it could begin again. In that moment, I realised this tiny spider was offering a spiritual lesson without speaking a single word.

The spider teaches us persistence. It does not stop weaving because yesterday's web was destroyed. It does not sit in frustration or give up. It simply starts again. Many of us know what it feels like when our efforts fall apart, when plans change, when hopes are shaken, when life interrupts what we try to build. Yet the spider reminds us that resilience is often quiet and steady. It is the courage to begin again, even when we know things may break tomorrow. Persistence is not dramatic; it is faithful, patient, and humble.

The spider also teaches us purpose. It spins because that is what it was created to do. Its work is small, unnoticed, and easily ruined, yet it remains faithful to its calling. We too have a purpose given by God, to love, to serve, to bring kindness into ordinary days. The spider does not wait for perfect conditions or compare itself to others. It simply does today's work with care. There is wisdom in that for us, especially when we feel uncertain or tired.

Finally, the spider teaches us trust. Every new web is an act of hope; hope that today's work might hold, that the effort might bear fruit. So, this weekend, let the spider's web remind you: when life's strands break, begin again; when your efforts feel fragile, trust God's steady hand; and when discouragement comes, remember that grace is woven through small, faithful acts each new day.

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 23rd August			
Sunday 23 rd August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Brendan O'Friel (Sick)
Monday 24 th August Feast of St Bartholomew			No Mass
Tuesday 25 th August Feast of St Edmund Arrowsmith	P/T	10 am	Mary and James Doyle (RIP)
Wednesday 26 th August Memorial of Dominic Barberi of the Mother of God	C/T	10 am	Hamid Khoshnetris (RIP)
Thursday 27 th August Memorial of St Monica	P/E	10 am	Gary Heaney
Friday 28 th August Memorial of St Augustine	C/T	10 am	Maria Hampton (Sick)
Saturday 29 th August Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist	C/T	10 am 10.45 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen Confessions
Sunday 30 th August Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Joan Blondell (RIP) People of the Parish

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

St Mary's Garden: We are reaching out to our parishioners for some help on Saturday, September 5th, to spruce things up before winter sets in. We'll kick things off at 10 am and wrap up around lunchtime. If you can join us, please bring your own gloves and any tools you have for weeding. Also, if anyone can bring along and use electric or batter shears to cut tree branches, we would be most grateful. We will take care of the refreshments. St Mary's coffee money will also contribute to buying some beautiful new plants. Just show up on the day, and thanks in advance for your support.

Readers' Training: A session will be held at 3pm on Saturday 5th September at St. Columba's. This is aimed at people who wish to join the reading rota but is also open to current readers who want a refresher.

Relics of Saint Gerard Majella: On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th September we have the great joy of welcoming the Relics of Saint Gerard Majella to the Island. They will be present at the following masses after which there will be the opportunity to venerate the relics:

- Monday, 7th September - Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Maughold, Ramsey at 7 pm
- Tuesday 8th September - St. Columba, Port Erin at 10.00 am
- Tuesday 8th September - St. Mary of the Isle, Douglas at 12.10 pm
- Tuesday 8th September - St. Anthony of Padua, Onchan at 7 pm

Saint Gerard was a young Redemptorist Lay Brother from Italy. born in 1726 and died in 1755 at the early age of 29. During his life, Gerard developed a close bond with the Neapolitan peasant community. In his work with the Redemptorist community, he was variously a gardener, sacristan, tailor, porter, cook, carpenter, and clerk of works on the new buildings. He is invoked as patron saint for unborn children, expectant mothers and women in childbirth.

Feast of Our Lady of Rushen: Our patronal feast day is on Saturday 12th September. We will celebrate this with Mass at St. Mary's at 3.30 pm rather than 10 am and we hope that as many people as possible can join us. Afterwards we will have a celebratory tea/coffee biscuits and cake.

Barn Dance: Come along and join the fun! The Social Club is delighted to invite you to a barn dance on Saturday 19th September from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Dust off your hats and boots and come along for an evening of music, dancing, and fun for all the family. Fancy dress is optional so feel free to dress up and get into the spirit of the evening. There will be a small entrance charge of £2 for adults and £1 for children. This is a faith supper and BYOB event. Please bring a dish to share and your own alcoholic drinks if desired. Cold drinks will be available. We will hold a raffle to help raise funds for the Social Club to enable us to subsidise future events and activities. Places are limited to 60 so please book early to avoid disappointment. To secure your place please speak to Lynn or Sue at St Mary's or Dee or Nick at St Columba's. So, grab your hat pull on your boots and come and enjoy a great night of community dancing and fun. 😊 😊

Meet and Chat: On Saturday August 29th Mark Kemp, one of the MHK candidates for Rushen, will be available in St Columba's hall to meet with and chat with anyone who wishes to pop in and meet him between 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm.

Mass Intentions Received: Susan Davies, Hamid Khoshnetris, Maria Hampton.

Parish Diary

5 th September 10 am	St Mary's Garden clean up
5 th September 3 pm	Readers training at St Columba's
12 th September 3.30 pm	Feast of Our Lady of Rushen Mass
19 th September 6.30 to 9 pm	Barn Dance at St Columba's Hall
26 th September 10 am	Teaching session with Fr Maxmilian Martin OFM at St Columba's.
27 th September 11 am	Parish Celebration of the Jubilee Year of St Francis
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: Susan 460514, Nick 431606, Dee 437487, or Lynn 472867

Second Collections to the end of the year

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
Sunday 13 th December	Christmas Flowers for churches

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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