

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

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Small Pear Tree

Two years ago, I planted a small pear tree. It struggled at first, producing only two pears. One fell early, and the other cracked and rotted before I ever tasted it. I remember looking at that little tree and thinking how familiar that felt, like the plans in life that never quite reach maturity. This spring, the tree surprised me. Every branch was full of blossoms, and soon tiny pears appeared everywhere. Many fell off, as young fruit often does. But twelve held on through the summer heat, growing quietly day by day. They became a sign of hope. Then, after returning from Ramsey, I counted again. One pear was gone. Eleven remained. A small thing, yet enough to stir a deeper thought.

That moment recalled the apostles. Jesus chose twelve, yet one fell. Judas stepped away from the light, leaving the early Church wounded and incomplete. For a time, the disciples stood as eleven and were not perfect and whole. But they were enough for God to begin His greatest work. As Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" (John 15:16). Even with one missing, the mission continued. Matthias was later chosen, but he did not erase Judas. He simply helped the Church to move forward and story of the eleven remained part of the Gospel.

The pear tree speaks to our human experience. Not every dream becomes reality. Not every relationship stays the same. Not every plan survives the heat of life. Yet what remains is enough for God to strengthen the branches that endure. He blesses the fruit that stays. St Paul reminds us, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Growth is slow, patient, and often hidden.

So, if your life feels like something is missing, a dream, a person, a certainty; remember the pear tree and remember the eleven. God began His Church with what was left. And He can begin again.

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 27th September			
Sunday 27 th September Twenty- Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	Doreen Short (Ann) Eileen Fidler (RIP)
Monday 28 th September Monday in Ordinary Time			No Mass
Tuesday 29 th September Feast of St Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	P/T	10 am	Pat Clewis (RIP)
Wednesday 30 th September Memorial of St Jermone	C/T	10 am	Major Skyes (RIP)
Thursday 1 st October Memorial of St Therese of the Child of Jesus	P/E	10 am	Special Intention
Friday 2 nd October Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels	C/T	10 am	Evelyn Furness (sick)
Saturday 3 rd October Saturday in Ordinary Time	C/T	10 am	Intentions of Our Lady of Rushen
Sunday 4 th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	C/T P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Linda Stabler (Ann)

Responsorial Psalm:

Remember your compassion, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Second Collection: The amount received for Catholic Education was £107.29 and for Home Missions was £279.67

A Heartfelt Thank You:

1. Sincere thanks to the Social Group for all the hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm that went into organising the Barn Dance. Your planning and dedication made the evening such an enjoyable and memorable occasion for everyone.

Thank you also to all who attended and helped create such a wonderful atmosphere of friendship, laughter, and community spirit. Events like these strengthen our parish family and remind us of the joy of coming together.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed in any way, whether through organising, setting up, bringing food, helping behind the scenes, or simply joining in the fun. Your support and participation made the evening a great success.

May God bless you all for your generosity and commitment to our parish community.

2. We thank the donor for a generous gift of £2,000 as part payment towards the cost of restoring one of the front upper windows at St Mary's Church, Castletown. Your support is greatly appreciated and will make a significant contribution to this important project, helping to preserve the beauty and heritage of our church for future generations.

Please be assured of our gratitude and prayers. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.

3. A warm welcome to all our visitors as we gather today to celebrate the 800th Anniversary Jubilee of St. Francis of Assisi. Thank you for sharing this special occasion with us. Following Mass, we invite you all to stay and enjoy lunch together.

Fr Joseph

October: Month of the Holy Rosary — During October, parishioners we are warmly invited to pray the Rosary before Mass and in your homes. We encourage individuals and families to take the initiative in leading the Rosary, helping our parish community to grow together in prayer and devotion to Our Lady.

“We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary.” — Pope St John Paul II, Rosarium Virginis Mariae, no. 41

A Warm Welcome and Thank You: We warmly welcome Fr Maxmilian Martin, OFM Conv., who gave us a spiritually nourishing talk on the spirituality of St Francis of Assisi and its relevance to our lives today. We thank him very much for sharing his wisdom and insights with us.

Mass Intentions Received: Pat Clewis, Linda Stabler and Brendan O’Friel

Parish Diary

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 18 th October	APF World Missions
Sunday 22 nd November	Animate Youth
Sunday 13 th December	Christmas Flowers for churches

Account details of the Parish

SEND YOUR DONATION TO:
ACCOUNT NAME: ST Mary & St Columba (037)
BANK ACCOUNT:21546325
SORT CODE:40-29-12

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

Archdiocese of Liverpool

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