St. Mary's and St. Columba's Parish Newsletter
Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

November: A Call to Spiritual Awakening

November offers Christians a profound lesson through both nature and the Church's tradition of praying for the faithful departed. As we watch trees shed their leaves and flowers fade, we are reminded that earthly life is fragile and temporary. Human strength, beauty, and achievements do not last forever. The prophet Isaiah declares: "All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:6-8).

The changing season invites us to reflect on our mortality and to focus on what truly endures: our relationship with God and our hope of eternal life. The storms of recent weeks also carry a spiritual message. Just as powerful winds strip trees of their leaves, life's trials can strip away our pride, self-sufficiency, and false securities. Yet God never abandons His children. Through every struggle He reassures us: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2). Amid the fading landscape, some plants stay green and resilient. They remind us of Christians who are still steadfast in faith, rooted in prayer and trust in God. As Jeremiah writes: "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord... he is like a tree planted by water... its leaves remain green" (Jeremiah 17:7-8).

November is also the Church's special month of remembrance and prayer for deceased parents, relatives, friends, and all the faithful departed. Sacred Scripture encourages this practice: "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead" (2 Maccabees 12:46). As we remember our loved ones, we do so not in despair but in hope. Jesus Himself assures us: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live" (John 11:25). The falling leaves remind us of death, but the promise of spring points to resurrection. May this month awaken in us deeper faith, fervent prayer for the departed, and joyful hope in Christ, for "here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come" (Hebrews 13:14). Amen.

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 8th November			
Sunday 8th November **Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**	P/E P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish June Lewis (RIP)
Monday 9th November **Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**			No Mass
Tuesday 10th November **Memorial of St Leo the Great**	P/E	10 am	Special Intention
Wednesday 11th November **Memorial of St Martin of Tours**	P/E	10 am	Susan Getty & James Kavanagh
Thursday 12th November **Memorial of St Josaphat**	P/E	10 am	Mary, John, and Frank Hutchinson
Friday 13th November **Friday in Ordinary Time**	P/E	10 am	Rose Dring & Betty Dewsnap
Saturday 14th November **Saturday in Ordinary Time**	P/E	10 am	Intentions to Our Lady of Rushen
Sunday 15th November **Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	P/E P/E	9 am 11 am	People of the Parish Geraldine Lamb (RIP)

Responsorial Psalm:
For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
Stay wake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect**.**
Alleluia.

Communion Antiphon:
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

November - Month of the Holy Souls: Please place the names of your deceased loved ones on the November Dead List and return it in the envelope provided. Holy Mass will be offered daily throughout November for all whose names are included. Place your offering in the envelope and return it as soon as possible to the box in front of the altar. The Parish Mass for all our faithful departed will be celebrated in St Columba's Church on Thursday 19th November at 7.00 pm. Parishioners and families are warmly invited to attend as we gather to pray for and remember our deceased loved ones.

Weekday Masses: The weekday Masses at St Mary's will now be held in the Presbytery while the painting of the church is being carried out.

SVP Christmas Fayre: The SVP extends heartfelt thanks to everyone for their ongoing support, which has enabled us to assist many young families and individuals in the southern part of the Island. We are excited to announce our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, November 28th, and we would greatly appreciate your help once more this year. Donation boxes will be available in both church porches, and St. Columba's Hall will be open on Friday, November 27th, from 2 to 4 PM to collect contributions. We would be thankful for raffle prizes, bottles, new unwanted gifts, and items for the cake stall. Thank you**!**

Island Spirituality Network: There's a change in the program! On Saturday, 14th November from 10 am to 1 pm at St John's Mill, Very Revd Nigel Godfrey, the Dean of Cathedral IOM, will be speaking on "The Spirituality of Gardening." He'll explore how Benedictine spirituality connects gardening with the motto "Ora et Labora," emphasizing that working in the garden is not just a chore but a form of worship that deepens our spiritual life. Everyone is invited, and while a suggested donation of £10 is appreciated, it's completely voluntary.

Christmas Wreath Making. Susan will once again be hosting a wreath making class at St Columba Church Hall on Saturday 5th December at 10 am. The proceeds from this class are used to provide flowers at St Mary's. If you would like to join her, please contact her by email suemagee@me.com and she will send full details. The cost will be £24 which includes mechanics and refreshments.

.

Mass Intentions Received: Geraldine Lamb and Kathyrn Rutherford, Iris &Ray Criscol, Stella, Jerome,Rosita &Abael Rodrigues, Frances and Peter Watters, Sarah Howel, conall Hehir RIP, Thanksgiving for healing received, Paddy Tynan, RIP, Jeffrey Anthpny Go RIP, Dawson family, Martin Biddulph, Trudy Cain, John Purcell sick, Angela and & Ken Stead, Little Kath, Julie & family, MaureenDunnes and Joseph Donleavy,Can. Chris Cunningham.

Venite ad Me — in a nutshell: This new Vatican document, whose title means "Come to Me," considers how we can pass on the Christian faith in a rapidly changing world. It reminds us that evangelisation begins not simply with rules or religious information, but with a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Faith is shared most powerfully through loving families, welcoming parish communities, prayer, the liturgy, charity, beauty and the credible witness of ordinary Christians. It encourages every Catholic to help others discover the joy, hope and peace found in Christ.

Parish Diary

19th November 7 pm	Parish Mass for all our faithful departed at St Columba's
28th November 11 am to 1 pm	SVP Christmas Fayre at St Columba's Hall
5th December 10 am	Christmas Wreath Making Class at St Columba's Hall
13th 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 22nd November	Animate Youth
Sunday 13th December	Christmas Flowers for churches

Account details of the Parish

SEND YOUR DONATION TO:
ACCOUNT NAME: St Mary and 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
A charitable incorporated organisation (registered UK charity number 1199714)