

NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle and St Joseph, Douglas

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17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 30th July 2023

(Page 108 in Mass Book)

(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

When I root through boxes of my belongings in search of something I often find other treasures, forgotten for years. This week I found a small leather-bound book given to me by Fr Michael O'Connor on Monday 12th September 1960, the day I went to Upholland at the age of twelve.

I was nipping down the road to the shops when he passed me in his car on his way to our house to say goodbye. The little book was entitled 'Prayers of an Irish Mother'. There was a £5 note slipped into the flyleaf (the equivalent on £85 in today's money). There was also one of his own ordination cards. Fr O'Connor was a curate in my home parish of Christ the King, Childwall. He was later to spend happy years on the Isle of Man before serving at the Metropolitan Cathedral and St Monica's Bootle. He died in Ireland aged 95 on 21st November 2021. I went to visit Michael in Rathmore, Co Kerry while on a motorbike trip to Ireland in summer 2018.

During my time in the junior seminary, the little prayer book became home to several other prayer cards. One of these was a 'Prayer to the Holy Ghost for the Success of the Ecumenical Council'. Finding that card brought back memories of the excitement we felt when Pope John XXIII called for an Ecumenical Council, the first since the 19th century. As a boy we prayed this prayer every evening after the rosary in the college chapel. I recall the thrill of those words: **'Show once more Thy wonders in our day as on the day of Pentecost.'** None of us realised how those prayers would be realised in the years ahead. I print the prayer in full.

Prayer to the Holy Ghost for the Success of the Ecumenical Council

Holy Spirit, who art sent by the Father in the name of Jesus to be with the Church by Thy presence and sure guidance, we pray Thee graciously to pour out the fullness of Thy gifts upon the Ecumenical Council.

Sweet Comforter and Teacher, enlighten the minds of our Prelates who gladly assemble at the invitation of the Supreme Pontiff at Rome to celebrate the Sacred Council.

May the Council be most fruitful, so that the light and strength of the Gospel may spread more and more among men and the Catholic religion and its missionary work happily prosper, making the teaching of the Church and her wholesome moral guidance fully understood.

Sweet Guide of the spirit, strengthen our minds in truth, that we may be humble and obedient in heart, and that, receiving gratefully the decisions of the Council, we may hasten to put them into practice.

We pray also for those still separated from the one fold of Jesus Christ, that, glorying as they do in the Christian name, they may come at last to unity under the one Shepherd.

Show once more Thy wonders in our day as on the day of Pentecost. Grant to Thy Church, that, constant and united in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, the reign of our divine Saviour may be advanced, a reign of truth, of justice, love and peace. Amen.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for August is dedicated to the upcoming **World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal**. He invites young people to set aside fear and embark on a joyful journey to bear witness to Christ in our world.

Pope Francis reassures young people of their importance for the Church, noting the Church needs young people in order to survive. He responds to several young people from different continents who pose questions in various languages, including youth from the Philippines, Brazil and the Ivory Coast. Some ask whether the Church is just for the elderly; why he chose Mary as the theme for World Youth Day; and what is the Pope's own hope for this international meeting of young people in Portugal?

Pope Francis explains that Mary's attitude is a lesson for all her peers.

"As soon as Mary knew she was going to be the Mother of God, she didn't stay there taking a 'selfie' or showing off The first thing she did was to set out on a journey, in haste, to serve, to help."

Later, the Holy Father shares his desire to plant "a seed for the world's future." He also prays for a world which puts love at the centre, as well as joy, especially at a time when "we are at war, because if we Christians have no joy, we are not credible, no one will believe us."

Fr John

Masses and Services for the coming week
All Masses and Services from St Mary's are live-streamed

Saturday 29th July 17 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Catherine Fincher, anniversary
Sunday 30th July 17 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Monica Singleton, anniversary
Monday 31st July St Ignatius Loyola	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Sick Parishioners
Tuesday 1st August St Alphonsus Ligouri	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Alison Newson & family
Wednesday 2nd August	12.00 noon	St Mary's	<i>Requiem Mass: Walter Gilbey</i>
Thursday 3rd August	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Sue Manning, recently died Thara Bai, anniversary
Friday 4th August St John Vianney	12.10 noon 1.15pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Nancy Gaffey, recently died <i>Funeral Service: Kevin Cowin</i>
Saturday 5th August	11.00 to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
The Transfiguration of the Lord	5.00pm	St Mary's	Dympna Sheehan, 1 st anniversary
Sunday 6th August	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
The Transfiguration of the Lord	11.00am	St Mary's	May & Frank Quayle

We remember parishioners **Mary Agnes Ozga** whose funeral took place in St Mary's on Friday; and **Kevin Cowin** whose funeral service will take place in St Mary's this coming Friday. We pray for their sorrowing families and friends. May they rest in peace.

- The **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 1st August** from 10.30am to 12 noon in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. The leaders are delighted that Clare Kilgallon and members of the choir will provide the entertainment with music and song. Everyone welcome. Refreshments served. Please contact Josie 406063.
- Our **Little Church** leaders are having a break during the school holidays and will resume in September. Thank you to our volunteer Catechists who give up their time to take care of our children in both churches.
- **Welcome back** to our Lourdes pilgrims. For those going away, travel safely and return refreshed.
- **School Tesco Tokens: Message from Donna Martin, headteacher of St Mary's School** - If you shop in Tesco, please collect a blue token for St Mary's School at the counter as you leave the store. This will help our school raise funds to develop the field for our children. Your help would be much appreciated. Thank you!
- **Advance Notice: St Anthony's SVP** will be holding an afternoon tea fundraiser on Saturday 16th September in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Full details will follow in the newsletter in coming weeks.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £491; St Mary & St Joseph £880. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Summer Benediction

When young-leaved Summer is summoned by the sun,
 And new-mown grass breathes fragrance through the air,
 When work is over, holidays begun,
 May peace and pleasure in themselves be prayer.
 And in your leisure may you hear the one
 Who is your blessing and by whom you're blest
 Still calling you: Come unto me and rest.

(Malcolm Guite)

