

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## The Transfiguration of The Lord, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023

(Page 173 in Mass Book)

and

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023

(Page 114 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

I came across this article from Reflections by Michael Dwyer on the **Transfiguration** this week .....

*'One of the first things we ever learned about Christ is that he was both God and man. He was divine and human at the same time. If you like he was divinity dressed up in human form. For three years the apostles shared his human life seeing just brief glimpses in his miracles and wonders that there was so much more to him than met the eye. In today's gospel he takes his three closest companions with him up a high mountain where he is **transfigured** in their sight. His human cloak is rolled back, his clothing becomes dazzling white and they see his divinity or his inner essence.*

*Through Baptism we celebrate the fact that in Christ we have become God's adopted sons and daughters with full inheritance rights to his riches. That means that we too have both a divine and a human reality. We are each chips off the block that is God; we carry a divine essence within us and beneath this outer appearance there is the part of me that is fearfully and wonderfully made. In fact, it is made in the image and likeness of God.*

*Why then is it that so many go through life feeling worthless or thinking that their lives are not up to much, or that they don't have much to offer? Surely it must be because we have never discovered that just beneath the surface there is the pearl of great price and that the kingdom is within us.*

*The priceless diamond that we are comes into the world looking like a crumpled paper bag. Before we ever make our first cry the diamond has already accumulated a share of packaging. It's part of what we mean by original sin. The human packaging rarely if ever comes intact. Sometimes there are physical defects we could well do without. Always there are emotional and psychological characteristics that we inherit from those who have gone before us.*

*The problem is that when we don't accept the packaging, we never discover the diamond inside. Children who are loved unconditionally, properly cared for affirmed and encouraged, have a far greater chance of accepting the packaging than say a child that was rejected or shamed or abused. The important thing is that we don't mistake the parcel for the package because inside all of us just waiting to be discovered is a beautiful diamond just waiting to be discovered.*

*So many of us, when we think of who we are, never get beyond the sometimes very tattered packaging. We don't know who we really are. So, we define ourselves in terms of what we do, as if that is what makes us important, or in terms of what we have in material things, as if having more makes us more. Then we can so easily define ourselves in terms of others approval or in relation to someone else. It might be as someone's mother or father, someone's wife or someone's husband. The problem with this is that when that person or thing that we depend on for our identity is no longer there we find ourselves in trouble. Many who have lost a partner can't let them go for that very reason; the person was too much part of his or her identity.*

*We live in such a consumer driven world where everything directs us to look out there for what we need in order to find happiness. It takes wisdom to realize that in the words of Shakespeare, 'all things are with more spirit chased than enjoyed.' No outer achievement, success, person or thing can deliver what it promises. The search is enjoyable but the achievement quickly becomes boring. Our hearts remain empty and restless. Such is the pain of being human.*

*This is the great gift of our faith, that it directs us to look inside for what we need and reminds us that at the deepest level of our being lies a precious diamond that is really our divine essence. When people give up on their journey of self-discovery, I wonder do they have any realisation, that in walking away, it is their true selves, that priceless diamond, that they are actually forsaking.'*

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A very warm welcome and thanks to Fr Sean Riley, Vice-Chancellor of our Archdiocese, who has kindly offered to visit the Island and stay in St Mary's at weekends while I have a break. I know you will make him feel at home.

This newsletter will cover the next 2 weeks which will give the parish office staff a break as well. I hope you will manage a break sometime during the summer too. Fr John

This week we have been shocked and saddened by the death of **Monica Caley**, a much-loved loyal and dedicated parishioner of St Anthony's. Monica worked diligently and discreetly in constant support behind the scenes with zero fuss or desire for recognition. She was a thoroughly good and humble person who will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brendan, Karen, Fran and family circle in their loss. May Monica rest in eternal peace.

- As a mark of respect on the death of **Monica**, there will be no bingo at St Anthony's this month. Monica was a longtime helper and supporter of the monthly bingo.
- **A ring** has been found in the grounds of St Mary's Church. Please email the Parish Office if you have lost one.
- **IOM Walking Opportunities on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> August:** Meet at **The dy Ve**, Ballawattleworth House, Peel at 10am in time for morning prayer. Bring a packed lunch and walking gear. Optional donation of £15. More information on routes available at <https://www.retreathouse.im/>.
- 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.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £560; St Mary & St Joseph £872. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your generosity.

### Masses and Services for the next two weeks

*All Masses and Services from St Mary's are live-streamed*

|  |                               |                                  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August</b><br><b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b>                    | 5.00pm                        | St Mary's                        | Dympna Sheehan, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary                                    |
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August</b><br><b>The Transfiguration of the Lord</b>                      | 9.30am<br>11.00am             | St Anthony's<br>St Mary's        | People of our Parishes<br>May & Frank Quayle                                   |
| <b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August</b>  | 12.10 noon                    | St Mary's                        | Special Intention  |
| <b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>St Dominic   | 10.00am<br>12.10 noon         | St Anthony's<br>St Mary's        | Eucharistic Service<br>Someone who is sick                                     |
| <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross                         | 12.10 noon                    | St Mary's                        | Mary Hardinge, anniversary   |
| <b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>St Lawrence  | <b>12.00 noon</b>             | <b>St Mary's</b>                 | <b>Requiem Mass: Julie Kinley</b>  |
| <b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>St Clare   | <b>10.00am</b><br>12.10 noon  | <b>St Anthony's</b><br>St Mary's | <b>Requiem Mass: Monica Caley</b><br>Brian Keenan, 7 <sup>th</sup> anniversary |
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time                 | 11.00 to 12.00 noon<br>5.00pm | St Mary's<br>St Mary's           | Confessions and Exposition<br>People of our Parishes                           |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>19 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time                   | 9.30am<br>11.00am             | St Anthony's<br>St Mary's        | Bryan Stott, anniversary<br>Róisín Higgins, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary        |
| <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>St Maximillian Kolbe                                       | 12.10 noon                    | St Mary's                        | Fr John's intentions   |
| <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August</b><br><b>Holyday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> | 12.10 noon<br>7.00pm          | St Mary's<br>St Anthony's        | Canon Brendan Alger, recently died<br>Michael & Margaret Gaffney, anniversary  |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>  | 12.10 noon                    | St Mary's                        | Mary Hardinge, birthday anniversary  |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August</b>   | 10.00am<br>12.10 noon         | St Anthony's<br>St Mary's        | Eucharistic Service<br>Alan Lynch, 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary                 |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>   | 12.10 noon                    | St Mary's                        | Dave Prudence Tayag, special intention   |
| <b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time                 | 11.00 to 12.00 noon<br>5.00pm | St Mary's<br>St Mary's           | Confessions and Exposition<br>Norah Cullinane, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary     |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b><br>20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time                   | 9.30am<br>11.00am             | St Anthony's<br>St Mary's        | People of our Parishes<br>Sheila Hennessy, anniversary                         |

We remember our parishioners **Monica Caley** and **Julie Kinley** who died this week. We pray for their sorrowing families and friends. May they rest in peace.