

NEWSLETTER

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

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22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 3rd September 2023

(Page 122 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

Pope Francis marks the start of the “**Season of Creation**” which runs from 1 September until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October:

Dear brothers and sisters,

“Let Justice and Peace Flow” is the theme of this year’s ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: “Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (5:24).

*God wants justice to reign. When we “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless **war against creation**.*

*The effects of this war can be seen in the many rivers that are drying up. **Benedict XVI once observed that: “the external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast”**. Consumerist greed, fuelled by selfish hearts, is disrupting the planet’s water cycle. The unrestrained burning of **fossil fuels** and the destruction of forests are pushing temperatures higher and leading to massive droughts. Alarming **water shortages** increasingly affect both small rural communities and large metropolises. Moreover, predatory industries are depleting and polluting our freshwater sources through extreme practices such as **fracking for oil and gas extraction**, unchecked mega-mining projects, and intensive animal farming. “Sister Water”, in the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, is pillaged and turned into “a commodity subject to the laws of the market” (Laudato Si’, 30).*

What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life?

1. *Let us join the mighty river by transforming our hearts. This is essential for any other transformation to occur; it is that “ecological conversion” which Saint John Paul II encouraged us to embrace: the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator. Furthermore, we should realize that **an integral approach to respect for the environment involves four relationships: with God; with our brothers and sisters of today and tomorrow; with all of nature; and with ourselves**. Creation refers both to God’s mysterious, magnificent act of creating this majestic, beautiful planet and universe out of nothing and to the continuing result of that act, which we experience as an inexhaustible gift. During the liturgy and personal prayer in “**the great cathedral of creation**”, let us recall the great Artist who creates such beauty, and reflect on the mystery of that loving decision to create the cosmos.*
2. *Let us add to the flow of this mighty river by **transforming our lifestyles**. With the help of God’s grace, let us adopt lifestyles marked by **less waste and unnecessary consumption**, especially where the processes of production are toxic and unsustainable. Let us cooperate in God’s ongoing creation through positive choices: using resources with moderation and a joyful sobriety, disposing and recycling waste and making greater use of available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible.*
3. *For the mighty river to continue flowing, we must **transform the public policies** that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote **scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others**, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf. Laudato Si’, 51). The world leaders who will gather for the **COP28 summit in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December** must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuels. According to the commitments undertaken in the **Paris Agreement** to restrain global warming, **it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures**.*

Let us raise our voices to halt this injustice towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change. I appeal to all people of good will to act in conformity with these perspectives on society and nature. (Pope Francis, Message for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2023 - edited)

Dates for your Dairy: We will be holding our annual **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** in St Mary’s from **Tuesday 3rd to Wednesday 11th October**. The 6th Day of the Novena, Sunday 8th October will include celebration of the **Sacrament of the Sick** at 3.00pm. More details later. Fr John

- The **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 5th September** at **10.30am-12noon** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Contact Josie on 406063 or Sally 642879.
- Novena to **Our Lady of Rushen** begins in St Mary's Castletown on Monday 4 September concluding on 12 September with a Memorial Mass to Our Lady of Rushen at 7pm at the Shrine in St Mary's Castletown.
- **September is St Vincent de Paul Awareness month.** St Anthony's SVP members are holding a fundraising Afternoon Tea on **Saturday 16th September** from 2pm to 4pm in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. **Adults £8; Children £3.50.** There will be a raffle at £1 for a strip of tickets. All funds raised will help St Anthony's SVP provide for the needy this winter. Please add your names to the list at the back of St Anthony's if you wish to attend or bring a friend along to the afternoon tea. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your continuing support of the SVP.
- A **Macmillan Coffee Morning** will be held in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on **Saturday 30th September** from 10am -12 noon, in memory of Canon Brendan. Offers of cakes would be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Research. Please contact Sheila on 475990.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £445; St Mary & St Joseph £880. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 2nd September			
22 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Angela Dean, anniversary
Sunday 3rd September	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
22 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Canon Brendan Alger, recently died
Monday 4th September St Cuthbert	12.10 noon	St Mary's	The Gawler Family, special intention
Tuesday 5th September	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Jessie Perry, recently died
Wednesday 6th September	12.10 noon	St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Thursday 7th September	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	John Myles, 32 nd anniversary Special Intention (LM)
Friday 8th September Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Monica Caley, recently died
Saturday 9th September	11.00 to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
23 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Neil Winfield, recently died
Sunday 10th September <i>Education Day</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Eileen & John Jawczak, anniversary
23 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

Prayer for our earth - for Season of Creation

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor
and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and
contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature,
as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 2015)



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24