

NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk Website www.manxcatholic.org

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 1st October 2023 **Rosary Sunday**

(Page 134 in Mass Book)

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

Pastoral Letter for the 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, for Sunday Masses on 30 September and 1 October 2023

(Conclusion of the Season of Creation)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Care for Creation: Commitments, Actions and Participation

As the Season of Creation draws to a close for this year, we are invited to reflect on the readings from Scripture we have just heard. In today's first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, we hear the abrupt and possibly harsh call which warns the wicked to renounce their ways and holds those who witness evil and do nothing responsible. The Gospel tells us how we should react to wrong-doing: by facing it, naming it, and trying to remedy it.

These passages from scripture are often invoked as a call to personal repentance, but after this summer of fires and floods, of record temperatures, and devastated landscapes, I am led to reflect on our call to be a prophetic voice on the ills of our times. Especially on the potential catastrophic effects of climate change which not only negatively impact human life but all animal and plant life on land and sea.

This coming Wednesday Pope Francis will be publishing a follow up to his 2015 letter *Laudato Si'*. Addressed to the whole world, the title of both publications derives from the first words of a St Francis of Assisi prayer – whose feast day we will celebrate on 4 October. St Francis wrote, "Praise be to brother sun and sister moon." By addressing all creation in this way, he reminds us that we are all interconnected.

There is no place for attitudes that think fires in Southern Europe, North Africa and Canada are no concern of ours. St Thomas Aquinas, the great Dominican philosopher and theologian, said "In every living creature there is a trace of the Trinity".

In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis draws together centuries of prayer and wisdom and asks us to urgently "Listen to the Cry of the Earth, and the Cry of the Poor". The Synod was part of that listening, as we built relationships with one another, and discerned a way forward for a more sustainable Church. That is why today you are receiving an update on what the Archdiocese is doing, and what you can do as an individual and a parish.

October sees the Archdiocese re-commit itself to creating a more sustainable world and I have chosen to bring this under the banner of Care for Creation. This phrase captures our Christian call to love each other and care for God's Earth.

I am aware of the need to be a steward of our resources, people, and environment and I am supported by all who work and volunteer within the Archdiocese – so I wish to share some of this with you.

Within the Archdiocese our buildings are already supplied by electricity generated from renewable energy, such as wind and solar, and 80 percent of the gas we burn is produced from renewable resources. This year, we are preparing a Net Zero carbon emissions plan that will identify how we can become even greener. We continue to take seriously how our money is invested: we have established a Responsible Investment Policy, and invited people into conversations about our sustainable livelihoods and the impact of our investments.

In our schools, we will continue to deliver education and resources to seek behavioural change at an individual and school level. CAFOD's Live Simply campaign continues to engage the interest of our young people.

Across deaneries, our own environmental training programme has prepared more than 40 Care for Creation leaders promoting action in parishes.

At the launch of the Pastoral Plan, after our diocesan Synod, I encouraged schools, parishes, and each one of us to make pledges. I invite you again to reflect on this Season of Creation. I hope that you may become inspired to build God's Kingdom on earth through practical, spiritual, and other activities that bring us together in more sustainable relationships.

You may pledge to eat less meat; walk rather than drive whenever possible; reduce air travel; limit the number of new clothes you buy. You may wish to pray that we take the environmental situation seriously or meditate on God's creation – being attentive to the gift of life and practising gratitude for the world around us. You may commit to joining an environmental group or working with other local churches – building new and life-giving relationships.

This is not just another environmental campaign; it is an integral part of our faith. It is about commitment, action, and participation in the work that Christ asks of us. In coming together as a parish, in making your personal pledges, in striving to heal the planet – you are a living witness to Jesus Christ. So do not be afraid to tell people why you are working for justice for the world's poorest people. You are working as a response to God's call, expressed through today's psalm: "*He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor.*"

May the Lord of all creation bless you and your families, **Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool**

Novena to Mary Untier of Knots: There are visiting speakers for many of our Novena services beginning next week in St Mary's on **Tuesday 3rd to Wednesday 11th October**. See separate schedule on handout at the back of church. The 6th Day of the Novena, **Sunday 8th October** will include celebration of the **Sacrament of the Sick at 3.00pm**. Please let sick relatives and friends know about this. It would be appreciated if Eucharistic Ministers and SVP members could advise the sick, elderly and housebound people they visit.

- **Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2024:** Application forms will go online this **Monday 2 October**. Young people aged 15-22 can apply at www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk. If you are interested in being part of the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage and require more information, please email the parish office. There will be an initial meeting in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on Saturday 7 October at 7pm.
- The **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 3 October** at 10.30am to 12 noon in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. The leaders will welcome **John Struthers** from **Ellan Vannin Pipes & Drum Band** who will provide the entertainment. Everyone warmly welcomed, refreshments served. Contact Josie on 406063 or Sally 642879.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £421; St Mary & St Joseph £1,225. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

This weekend we welcome Archbishop Malcolm for Confirmations on Saturday here in St Mary's. I'm grateful to those who prepared the children so well over the last few months. A big commitment! It's good that Archbishop's long-planned visit to the Island on official visitation to St Mary's Castletown and St Columba's Port Erin coincides with last week's announcement of Cathedral status for St Mary's. Thank you to those who sent messages of congratulation. People have been stopping me in the street to express their delight. It's an honour not just for St Mary's parishioners nor even for Catholics Island wide. It's been seen by many as an honour for the wider population as well.

More thanks to all those who made our Civic Service at St Mary's last Sunday such a joyful occasion. Our civic guests were thrilled with the vitality and inclusiveness of the Mass. They were particularly moved by the involvement of our young people – our Little Church, the choirs from St Mary's and Manor Park schools with readers from Ballakermeen. A joyous, upbeat occasion. The Mayor was particularly pleased. Thanks also to our adult choir who excelled and also to our stewards and cleaners and to those who helped with refreshments. Well done!

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 30th September			
26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Angelina Lacadin, birthday anniv
Sunday 1st October	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Rose & William Keenan, anniversary
<i>Rosary Sunday</i>			
Monday 2nd October	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Canon Brendan Alger, recently died
Memorial of the Guardian Angels			
Tuesday 3rd October	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Michael Shimmin, 2 nd anniversary
	7.00pm	St Mary's	<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 1</i>
Wednesday 4th October	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Julia Mooney
St Francis of Assisi	7.00pm	St Mary's	<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 2</i>
Thursday 5th October	10.00am	St Anthony's	Anniversary
	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Corazon Quiambao, sick
	7.00pm	St Mary's	<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 3</i>
Friday 6th October	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Walter Gilbey, recently died
St Bruno	7.00pm	St Mary's	<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 4</i>
Saturday 7th October	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>			
27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Mary Ellen McNulty, recently died
			<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 5</i>
Sunday 8th October	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Joseph Cunningham, Alicia Devlin & Dessie Hughes, recently died
<i>Day of Prayer for Prisoners & their Dependents</i>	3.00pm	St Mary's	<i>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 6</i> <i>Sacrament of the Sick</i>