

NEWSLETTER

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

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27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 8th October 2023

Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents

(Page 137 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

This week we celebrated the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. It marked the first day of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, at which lay women and men will be able to participate and vote for the first time. It was also the day chosen by Pope Francis to release his new teaching document on climate change **Laudate Deum**. This is the first of several extracts that we will be publishing in our newsletter in the coming weeks:

“Praise God for all his creatures”. This was the message that Saint Francis of Assisi proclaimed by his life, his canticles and all his actions. In this way, he accepted the invitation of the biblical Psalms and reflected the sensitivity of Jesus before the creatures of his Father: “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these” (Mt 6:28-29). “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight” (Lk 12:6). How can we not admire this tenderness of Jesus for all the beings that accompany us along the way!

Eight years have passed since I published the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’, when I wanted to share with all of you, my brothers and sisters of our suffering planet, my heartfelt concerns about the care of our common home. Yet, with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc.

*This is a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life. The Bishops of the United States have expressed very well this social meaning of our concern about climate change, which goes beyond a merely ecological approach, because **“our care for one another and our care for the earth are intimately bound together. Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community. The effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world”**. In a few words, the Bishops assembled for the Synod for Amazonia said the same thing: **“Attacks on nature have consequences for people’s lives”**....*

We know that every time the global temperature increases by 0.5° C, the intensity and frequency of great rains and floods increase in some areas and severe droughts in others, extreme heat waves in some places and heavy snowfall in others..... No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone. Admittedly, not every concrete catastrophe ought to be attributed to global climate change. Nonetheless, it is verifiable that specific climate changes provoked by humanity are notably heightening the probability of extreme phenomena that are increasingly frequent and intense....

*It is not possible to conceal the correlation of these global climate phenomena and the accelerated increase in greenhouse gas emissions, particularly since the mid-twentieth century. The overwhelming majority of scientists specializing in the climate support this correlation, and only a very small percentage of them seek to deny the evidence. Regrettably, the climate crisis is not exactly a matter that interests the great economic powers, whose concern is with the greatest profit possible at minimal cost and in the shortest amount of time..... What happens in one part of the world has repercussions on the entire planet. This allows me to reiterate two convictions that I repeat over and over again: **“Everything is connected”** and **“No one is saved alone”**.*

Our **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** continues with Day 4 this evening Friday 6 October at 7pm, with **Fr Mark Beattie** the speaker. **Martin Miller** the Chief Operating Officer of the Archdiocese will speak tomorrow at the Novena which will take place during our 5pm Mass. Please see separate schedule on handout at the back of church for the remaining days up until **Wednesday 11 October**. This **Sunday 8 October** the Novena will include celebration of the **Sacrament of the Sick at 3.00pm** in St Mary’s. Please let sick relatives and friends know about this service to allow as many of our elderly, sick and housebound to attend if possible. Thank you for your encouragement and support of the Novena.

Message from **CAFOD** Liverpool Office: We would like to thank you for supporting our [Family Fast Day appeal](#) in your parish this week. Our appeal highlights the terrible impact of the climate crisis, telling the story of Meera, whose home in Pakistan was swept away by extreme flooding last year. Flooding that was an example of the extreme weather phenomena that Pope Francis calls “palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone”.

Pope Francis says: “authentic faith not only gives strength to the human heart, but also transforms life, transfigures our goals and sheds light on our relationship to others and with creation as a whole”. Responding to our Family Fast Day Appeal is an important way we can all take up Pope Francis’ invitation to “accompany this pilgrimage of reconciliation with the world that is our home and to help make it more beautiful”.

We work at the frontline of climate and conflict emergencies in over 40 countries. Thanks to the support of parishes, we are working with our sisters and brothers to build resilience in the face of the huge challenges posed by the climate crisis, to respond quickly to help communities devastated by climate-induced disasters, and to continue to call on those in power to take urgent action. CAFOD envelopes are at the back of church. Thank you.

- **Assisted Dying Bill: ‘Standing in the Gap’ Churches Alive in Mann Prayer Evening** about the upcoming Assisted Dying Bill will take place at Broadway Baptist this **Thursday 12 October at 7.30 to 9pm**. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.
- **Thank you** to everyone who helped in any way with our **Confirmations** in St Mary’s on Saturday. It was a happy family celebration. Thank you to our choir, the teachers who prepared our young people and to those who helped on the day with refreshments and organisation. A lot of preparation goes into such an event.
- **St Anthony’s Bingo** will take place on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome, including visitors.
- **The recent Macmillan Coffee Morning on 30 September 2023** in memory of Canon Brendan raised £1,123.30 for the charity. Thank you to all who supported and helped.
- **Island Spirituality Network (ISN)**: The next ISN morning will be held on **Saturday 14 October** from 10.00am - 1.00pm at St John’s Mill. The speaker will be Canon John Mann, former Dean of St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast. His theme will be “Attentiveness”.
- **Offertory Collections**: St Anthony’s £742; St Mary & St Joseph £888. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 7th October <i>(Our Lady of the Rosary)</i> 27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary’s	Mary Ellen McNulty, recently died <i>incl. Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 5</i>
Sunday 8th October 27 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Day of Prayer for Prisoners & their Dependents</i>	9.30am 11.00am 3.00pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s St Mary’s	People of our Parishes Joseph Cunningham, Alicia Devlin & Dessie Hughes, recently died Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 6: Sacrament of the Sick
Monday 9th October St John Henry Newman	12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Jocelyn Marquez, deceased Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 7
Tuesday 10th October St Paulinus of York	10.00am 12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s St Mary’s	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Monica Caley, recently died Novena to Mary Untier of Knots Day 8
Wednesday 11th October St John XXIII, Pope	12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Gerald & Lilian Bridson, anniversary Novena to Mary Untier of Knots, final day
Thursday 12th October St Wilfrid	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	Albert Gubay, deceased Albin, special intention
Friday 13th October St Edward the Confessor	12.10 noon	St Mary’s	Dr Charles Redmond, anniversary
Saturday 14th October 28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes
Sunday 15th October 28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	Joan Corran, 7 th anniversary Joe Greene, 25 th birthday anniversary