

NEWSLETTER

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

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33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 19th November 2023

(Page 155 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

Last Sunday's first reading was taken from the Book of Wisdom. I remarked how Wisdom is described in feminine terms. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We might even say that the Holy Spirit and Wisdom are the same. During the past week we have been reading from the Book of Wisdom each day at Mass. The passage chosen for Thursday is worth a second look. It speaks for itself.

*Within Wisdom is a spirit intelligent, holy,
unique, manifold, subtle,
active, incisive, unsullied,
lucid, invulnerable, benevolent, sharp,
irresistible, beneficent, loving to man,
steadfast, dependable, unperturbed,
almighty, all-surveying,
penetrating all intelligent, pure and most subtle spirits;
for Wisdom is quicker to move than any motion;
she is so pure, she pervades and permeates all things.
She is a breath of the power of God,
pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;
hence nothing impure can find a way into her.
She is a reflection of the eternal light,
untarnished mirror of God's active power,
image of his goodness.
Although alone, she can do all;
herself unchanging, she makes all things new.
In each generation she passes into holy souls,
she makes them friends of God and prophets;
for God loves only the man who lives with Wisdom.
She is indeed more splendid than the sun,
she outshines all the constellations;
compared with light, she takes first place,
for light must yield to night,
but over Wisdom evil can never triumph.
She deploys her strength from one end of the earth to the other,
ordering all things for good.
(The Book of Wisdom 7:22-8:1)*

Last weekend Anglican poet, priest and academic Malcolm Guite visited the Island. He spoke movingly about Poetry and Prayer. Here is his poem about Wisdom.

*I cannot think unless I have been thought,
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.
I cannot teach except as I am taught,
Or break the bread except as I am broken.
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,
O Light within the light by which I see,
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,
O Memory of time, reminding me,
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,
Come to me now, disguised as everything.*

This week I attended a meeting of deans. The Isle of Man is one of thirteen deaneries across the Archdiocese. One of the things we shared was the number of angry and abusive emails we receive from parishioners. It was a reassuring conversation – I thought I was the only priest to get them. And, of course, appreciative comments from grateful parishioners make up for it.

Next Saturday, 25th November, the first-ever Archdiocesan Synodal Council meets in Liverpool. Clergy and lay members from each of the thirteen Deanery Synodal Councils in the Archdiocese will be taking part. Brian Murphy is the member for St Mary & St Joseph's and Win Kewley for St Anthony's. The main item on the agenda will be to report progress on implementation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan and to discuss the way forward. The Isle of Man Deanery Synodal Council will be taking part via zoom. All parishioners can watch online and be a part of this gathering. You can submit questions by clicking the link on the Archdiocese of Liverpool's homepage: <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

- The **'Warm and Cosy Hub'** is open on Mondays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm for the winter months in the Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas. Hot soup with bread & butter will be served with tea, coffee and biscuits. If you are feeling low or need cheering up, do pop into this friendly warm environment. Everyone welcome.
- The **Memory Support Group** will next meet on **Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 10.30am-12 noon**. The Group is delighted to welcome the **Ukulele group** to provide entertainment for their pre-Christmas meeting. All will be warmly welcomed and tea/coffee and cake will be served. Please contact Josie on 406063 or Sally on 642879 for further information.
- **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024:** Children attending St Mary's Catholic Primary School are being prepared for First Holy Communion as part of the school's RE curriculum. Parents and Guardians of **Year 4 children attending other non-Catholic schools who wish to make their First Holy Communion in 2024 are required to register their names by email** with the parish office saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk. They will then receive an application form followed by an invitation to attend evening classes at St Anthony's, Onchan. Six sessions of preparation are required, taking place next Spring. Thank you to our parish catechists who lead the preparation course.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £556; St Mary & St Joseph £888. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 18th November			
33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ann Fox, anniversary
Sunday 19th November	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Jimmy Byrne, 10 th anniversary
Monday 20th November	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Holy Souls
Tuesday 21st November	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary	12.10 noon	St Mary's	John Miles, recently died
Wednesday 22nd November	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Catherine Tayag, special intention
St Cecilia			
Thursday 23rd November	10.00am	St Anthony's	Brenda Park, anniversary
St Columbanus	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Canon Brendan, birthday remembrance
Friday 24th November	12.10 noon	St Mary's	George Bridson, anniversary
St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions			
Saturday 25th November	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
<i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Peter Simpson, anniversary
Sunday 26th November	9.30am	St Anthony's	John Melia, 30 th anniversary
<i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	11.00am	St Mary's	Frank O'Neill, 6 th anniversary
<i>Youth Sunday</i>			
Monday 27th November	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Funeral Service: John Smallwood</i>
	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Patrick & Mary Reaney, anniversary

We remember in our prayers parishioners **Derek Kenna** and **John Smallwood** who died recently. May they rest in eternal peace. We pray for comfort for their families and friends who grieve their loss.