

## NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle and St Joseph, Douglas  
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**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Youth Sunday**  
(Page 158 in Mass Book)  
(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

I write this on my final day in Rome. I've been here this week with 29 other priests from England and Wales who have celebrated 40th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of their Ordination this year.

The highlight of our visit was an audience with Pope Francis. With two other Liverpool Priests, Peter Morgan and Des Seddon, we were in line to greet Pope Francis personally. It was a privilege to shake his hand and exchange a few words. He made time for everyone. An amazing man with a wonderful open and smiling face. I will share more in our newsletter next week.

**Youth Sunday** is celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King each November and is an opportunity to recognise young people as a gift in the Church. Pope Francis describes youth as a time of "hopes and dreams" and asks how this optimism can be sustained in an increasingly crisis-ridden world. He says we are living in a period of crisis, of war, when "for many people, including the young, hope seems absent." Many, he remarks, "feel as if they are in a dark prison, where the light of the sun cannot enter. When we think of human tragedies, especially the suffering of the innocent, we can echo some of the Psalms and ask the Lord, 'Why?'"

Pope Francis suggests two ways for young people to maintain Christian hope in such difficult times.

The first of these, he says, is to recognise that hope is not "a product of our human efforts, plans or skills." It is, rather, "born of an encounter with Christ. Christian joy comes from God himself, from our knowledge of his love for us. It is the certainty, rooted in love and faith, that God never abandons us and remains faithful to his promise: 'Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me'."

A second method for maintaining hope in the midst of suffering, he says, is to recognise that "we can be part of God's answer to the problem. Created by Him in His image and likeness, we can be signs of His love, which gives rise to joy and hope even in situations that appear hopeless. Having received this joy and hope, we cannot keep it to ourselves. Nurture the spark that has been kindled in you," he urges, "but at the same time share it. You will come to realize that it grows by being given away!"

In particular, he asks, "Stay close to your friends who may be smiling on the outside but are weeping within, for lack of hope. Do not let yourselves be infected by indifference and individualism."

We cannot keep our Christian hope to ourselves, "like a warm feeling", Pope Francis urges. "It is meant for everyone."

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### Isle of Man Foodbank

If you are considering doing something for Advent, one option could be for your family and friends to donate just one item each to the Foodbank from the shopping list below. Just one item can make all the difference!!

<b>Tinned salmon or ham</b>	<b>Tinned stewing steak, chicken curry or meatballs</b>
<b>Tinned Spaghetti</b>	<b>Small jars of coffee</b>
<b>Small packets teabags</b>	<b>Cordial</b>
<b>Biscuits</b>	<b>Crisps</b>
<b>Tinned fruit</b>	<b>Tinned custard</b>
<b>Tinned rice pudding</b>	<b>Trifle ingredients or mix</b>
<b>UHT Milk</b>	<b>Sugar</b>
<b>Pasta sauce or other sauces</b>	<b>Jams or spreads (e.g. peanut butter, strawberry jam)</b>
<b>Small bottles of cooking oil</b>	<b>Tomato sauce/Brown sauce/ Mayonnaise</b>
<b>Toilet rolls</b>	<b>Washing-up liquid</b>
<b>Laundry capsules/powder or liquid</b>	<b>Multi-purpose surface cleaner</b>
<b>Shampoo and conditioner</b>	<b>Bath soap</b>

You can drop off your donations at IOM Foodbank Headquarters, Ballafletcher House, Douglas. There is also a box for donations in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan which is open after Sunday morning Mass.

- 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.
- **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](mailto: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 £425; St Mary & St Joseph £925. Thank you for your generosity.

### Advent Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool

**Sunday 3 December - Advent Sequence** - music and readings to prepare us for the Advent journey.

**Sunday 10 December - A Ceremony of Carols** - The boy choristers join harpist Elizabeth McNulty to perform Benjamin Britten's sequence of carol texts by English poets.

**Saturday 16 December - A Celebration of Christmas** - A family Christmas concert with carols for everyone to sing. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk)

**Sunday 17 December - Festival Carol Service** - A traditional carol service by the cathedral choir.

For a full list of Christmas events and services, see [www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk)

November's **Catholic Pic** is available online @ [Catholic Pic November 2023 by Catholic Pic - Issuu](#). It features an article on St Mary's inauguration.

### Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Peter Simpson, anniversary
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	John Melia, 30 <sup>th</sup> anniversary Frank O'Neill, 6 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10.00am</b> 12.10 noon	<b>St Anthony's</b> St Mary's	<b>Funeral Service: John Smallwood</b> Patrick & Mary Reaney, anniversary
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Catherine Labouré	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Armi Banga, recently died
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Andrew, Apostle	10.00am <b>12.00 noon</b>	St Anthony's <b>St Mary's</b>	Peter Denver, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary <b>Requiem Mass: Derek Kenna</b>
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Thomas Hardinge, anniversary
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ann Fox, deceased
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	David Killey, anniversary
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent <i>Day of Special Prayer for Migrants</i>	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

We remember in our prayers parishioners **Ann Scott** and **Pat McCarthy** who died this week. May they rest in eternal peace. We pray for comfort for their families and friends who grieve their loss.