

## NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) Website [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024

(Page 95 in Mass book)

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

Dear Parishioners

During my time in Peru in the 1980s I lived in both the Andes mountains and on the desert coast.

The coastal shanty town dwellers migrated from the mountains. The contrast between these two lifestyles couldn't be more different. As one priest from Boston explained, it was a distance of a thousand years: a calm, predictable medieval rural existence exchanged for the noise and the bustle of modern if primitive urban squalor. Those who leave their mountain ancestral homes tell the same story: they miss their animals. Having risen at sunrise and taken their animals to graze and stayed with them, they brought them home at dusk and went to bed themselves. Living alongside animals for generations they feel less than human in sterile desert conurbations.

We never had a dog when I was growing up. The first thing I did after ordination was to get one. And with a few gaps I've had dogs for most of my fifty years as a priest. There's something healthy about a dog's routine that rubs off on me. We co-exist and depend on each other. Keeping a dog is expensive. But so is gym membership. I look on dogs as my personal trainers. They are the reason I get up very early in the morning and I walk them last thing at night, and several times in between. I do my best thinking when walking the dog.

Last January my rescue dog Lottie was put to sleep at the Age of 14. Lottie was placid and irreplaceable. I put on weight without the discipline of walking her. I am now in the process of adopting another. Scamp, a 7-year-old Bedlington terrier, has just had his first sleepover at St Mary's – part of the gradual introduction process over several weeks that the Manx SPCA require. I am more than happy to comply with these conditions both for the long-term wellbeing of the dog and for my own benefit to become familiar with the temperament and needs of the new dog. Non dog owners might imagine that dogs are hyperactive. Doggie programmes on the TV usually involve problem dogs and how to control them. They only see them when they call at a dog owner's house – when dogs are excited by visitors - or when they meet them out walking when they are running and playing and chasing balls. In truth, dogs spend most of their time sleeping or dozing with one eye open.

I miss Lottie. But as Pope Francis said to a young boy who lost his dog in 2014: "*One day, we will see our animals again in the eternity of Christ. Paradise is open to all of God's creatures.*"

\*\*\*\*\*

This weekend we hope to welcome **Monsignor Peter Ryan**, former parish priest at St Mary's. Peter is now in his nineties. I am attending a Council of Priests meeting in Liverpool this week which will allow me to accompany Monsignor Peter on his first journey back to the Island since he left in 1989. He is looking forward to his visit.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Fr Brian's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood:** As mentioned previously in our newsletter, we look forward to marking this special occasion for Fr Brian on the evening of **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July**. Mass will be concelebrated with Bishop Tom Neylon in St Mary's at 6.30pm followed by drinks and canapés. Hopefully good weather will allow use of St Mary's Garden. All St Anthony's and St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph's parishioners are invited. The caterers will be charging a fixed price per head and we wish to minimise waste and costs. **Therefore, it is essential to please let the parish office know if you would like to attend, preferably by email to [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) by Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June.**  
*Fr John*

\*\*\*\*\*

- **Island Spirituality Network:** Next meeting will take place this **Saturday 15 June** from **10am to 1pm** in **St John's Mill**. Guest speaker is **Rev Dr Janet Corlett**, Chair of the Methodist Church on the Island, whose theme will be "Hidden Treasures – Spirituality and Manx Identity".
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,060. St Anthony's £520. This does not include standing orders or the tap and pay machine at the back of St Mary's church. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

## Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>(changes to previous newsletter)</i>	<b>10.00am</b> <b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>Crematorium</b> <b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Funeral Service: Marie Woodruff</b> <b>Requiem Mass: Elizabeth Green</b>
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Day for Life</i> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon  5.00pm	St Mary's  St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions  John Smith, anniversary
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Day for Life</i> 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am  11.00am	St Anthony's  St Mary's	Pearl M <sup>c</sup> Feat, anniversary  People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Patrick McCarrick & family intentions
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b> St John Rigby	10.00am 12.10pm	<i>St Anthony's</i> St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Robert Scott, sick
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	William Robert Corran
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Alban	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Louise Newton, sick Anne-Marie Graham, recently died
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> St Aloysius Gonzaga, SJ	12.10pm	St Mary's	Frances Quayle, recently died
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b> <i>St John Fisher, St Thomas More</i> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon  5.00pm	St Mary's  St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions  People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am  11.00am	St Anthony's  St Mary's	Nan Garlick, anniversary  Gordon & Shirley Savage, deceased

### Pope at Angelus: Am I free like Christ or imprisoned by worldliness?

During his Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis encourages the faithful to learn from Jesus' detachment from and indifference to money, power and superficiality.

The Holy Father drew inspiration from Sunday's Gospel reading, from St Mark, which shows the different reactions to Jesus, after He began His public ministry: His worried relatives feared He had gone mad, while the religious authorities accused Him of acting under the influence of an evil spirit.

On the contrary, the Pope said, Jesus was preaching and healing the sick with the power of the Holy Spirit - the same Spirit that had "made Him divinely free," that is to say, "capable of loving and serving without measure and without conditions."

First, the Pope said, **Jesus was free in relation to wealth**, and therefore left the security of His village of Nazareth to embrace a poor and uncertain life. The Lord freely healed the sick and anyone who came to ask for His help, "without ever asking for anything in return."

Also, the Pope marvelled, **Jesus was free in relation to power**. "While calling many to follow Him," the Holy Father recalled, "He never forced anyone to do so, nor did He ever seek the support of the powerful, but always sided with the least, teaching His disciples to do the same."

Finally, the Pope said, **Jesus was free in relation to the pursuit of fame and approval**, and for this reason, Christ never hesitated to speak the truth, "even at the cost of not being understood" and of "becoming unpopular," "even to the point of dying on the Cross."

The Lord could never be bought nor corrupted. The Lord never allowed Himself to be "intimidated, bought, or corrupted by anything or anyone," the Pope said. All this shows us that Jesus was a free man and teaches us a valuable lesson: "If we allow ourselves to be conditioned by the pursuit of pleasure, power, money or approval," the Pope said, "we become slaves to these things."

But if, on the other hand, "we allow God's gratuitous love to fill and expand our hearts, and if we let it overflow spontaneously," he said, "we grow in freedom and spread its good fragrance around us, in our homes, in our families and in our communities."

Pope Francis invited the faithful to ask themselves, "Am I a free person? Or do I let myself be imprisoned by the myths of money, power and success, sacrificing my own serenity and peace and that of others? Do I spread, in the environments in which I live and work, the fresh air of freedom, sincerity and spontaneity?" *(Vatican News)*