

## NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas  
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**Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

and

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

*(Page 85 and 92 in Mass book)*

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

Dear Parishioners

French Jesuit, scientist and theologian **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin** once found himself stuck without his Mass kit on a field trip in the desert. Lacking altar breads and wine he decided to celebrate Mass without them. When it came to the Eucharistic Prayer he spoke the words of consecration over the entire world: *'This is my body'* and *'This is my blood'*. I think of this as we celebrate **the Feast of Corpus Christi** this weekend, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

We speak of the **'Real Presence'** of Jesus in the Eucharist. This can be a stumbling block for some, even in the time of Jesus himself: *'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'* But the real presence is not a conjuring trick that the priest performs at the altar. One feature of the appearances of the risen Christ in the days after the Resurrection is that the disciples did not recognise him. But they *'recognised him at the breaking of bread.'* That's when we recognise him, too, through the eyes of faith. And we are encouraged by the words of Jesus to Thomas: *'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'* Every Mass is a celebration of what Christ did at the Last Supper and on Calvary. His body is broken and his blood is shed for us. We come to Mass in obedience to Christ's command the night before he died *'do this in memory of me'*.

Like all the sacraments, Holy Communion is an encounter with the living Christ. But it also points to a wider reality – the presence of the risen Christ in the Church; in you and in me. ***'Now you together are Christ's body, but each of you is a different part of it'*** (1 Corinthians 12:27). In faithfully repeating Our Lord's words and actions over the bread and the wine, we celebrate Our Lord's presence among us and in our world. The risen Christ is the cosmic Christ present at the right hand of the Father since time began: *'He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be'*. **The Eucharist is a Sacrament**, *'an outward sign of inward grace'*. It *'effects what it signifies'*. In receiving Christ in Holy Communion, we affirm that we ourselves are the body and blood of Christ. His presence grows within us both collectively and individually. One day we will see the Lord face to face. To quote St Thomas Aquinas, on that day *'sacraments shall cease'*.

The many ways in which Christ is present with us are listed in the prayer of Spiritual Communion which we said at each Mass livestreamed during the pandemic and which we continue to pray at weekend Masses for those participating via live stream:

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*You promise to be with us when two or three are gathered together in your name.*

*You promise to be with us until the end of time.*

*You are with us when we hear your Word in the Sacred Scriptures.*

*You are with us in those who are hungry and thirsty, sick or in prison and in the face of the stranger.*

*You are with us in our beautiful world and in the very stuff of the entire Universe.*

*You are with me in the very depths of my being;*

*And you are with us in the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist.*

*Today I am unable to receive you in this Sacrament of your Body and Blood.*

*Lord Jesus, strengthen my belief that you are always with us until you come again.*

*I believe that one day I will see you face to face when there will be no more suffering, no more tears and no more sadness.*

*Lord Jesus, stay with me and with those I love throughout this day and for the rest of my life.*

*You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen*

Many of us were brought up with the notion that **we are too sinful to receive Holy Communion**. And we certainly are. This is why we begin every Mass with an act of reconciliation. It is why we repeat three times these words before receiving Holy Communion: *'Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us'*. We go on to say: *'Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.'*

Writing in the sixteenth century, **Saint Ignatius of Loyola** had this to say:

*'One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again.'*

*It is much more profitable, then, to approach this divine Sacrament with love, respect and confidence, than to remain away through an excess of fear and scrupulosity'.*

Jesus challenged his disciples with the words 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink?'. They answered: 'We can'. But the Eucharist comes with a health warning. At the Agony in the Garden Jesus himself struggled with accepting this cup: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by.' Reception of the Eucharist inevitably leads us in Jesus' footsteps to suffering and death.  
Fr John

- **T and Chat** will next meet on **Tuesday 4 June 2024** from **10.30am to 12 noon** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie Lorimer on 406063.
- **Columba Catholic Club:** A reminder that the **Columba Club** is now **open every Friday** from **8pm until 11pm**. Annual membership is £15 per person or £25 per couple. Application forms are available from the Club. If you would like to discuss holding an event such as a Christening, Anniversary, Retirement, Birthday Party or Wake, please contact Richard Coase or Brian Murphy for more information or call into the Club on a Friday evening.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £912. St Anthony's £556. 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 next two weeks

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

<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b> <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Mary & Patrick Reaney, anniversary
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b> <i>Corpus Christi - Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Betty Cairns, recently died (Preston, Lancashire)
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b> Sts Charles Lwanga & Companions	12.10pm	St Mary's	Kathleen Hamill, recently died
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>10.00am No Mass or Service</i>	<i>St Anthony's St Mary's</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service No Mass or Service today</i>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Boniface	12.10pm	St Mary's	Irene Higgins
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>10.00am 12.10pm</i>	<i>St Anthony's St Mary's</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service Noel Larkin, recently died</i>
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b> The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	12.10pm	St Mary's	Paddy Dunne
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Kit Kneen, anniversary
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Paul Wilson, birthday anniversary
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Canon Vincent Burrowes, deceased
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Barnabas	<i>10.00am 12.00 noon</i>	<i>St Anthony's St Mary's</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service Requiem Mass: Mary Moore</i>
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	The Burrowes Family
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Anthony of Padua	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Freja Stewart Hansen, anniversary Terence & Alice O'Neill
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Patrick McCarrick & family intentions
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Day for Life</i>	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	John Smith, anniversary
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Day for Life</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Pearl M'Feat, anniversary
11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

Please pray for **May Poole** who died last week in hospital on The Wirrall. May is the mother of Steve (& Cathy) who were regular parishioners for many years before moving off-Island 5 years ago. Cathy keeps in touch and joins us online.