

NEWSLETTER

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

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17th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 28th July 2024

(Page 112 in Mass book)

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

Dear Parishioners

I'm grateful to Monsignor Stephen Alker for celebrating Masses last week. I visited my sister Michele who is sick, spent a few days in Scotland and then attended Graduation ceremonies at Liverpool Hope University.

Christine Allen, the National Director of CAFOD, was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Christine, who has led the international development charity since 2019, was also acknowledged for her commitment to social justice and working to tackle poverty and social exclusion both at home and overseas, as well as her charity work with Christian Aid, Progressio and the Catholic Housing Aid Society (CHAS).

She received the award of Doctor of Humane Letters alongside hundreds of Liverpool Hope graduates at a ceremony at Liverpool Cathedral on Wednesday 24 July.

Christine is the first female director in the history of CAFOD, the official aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

Born in Liverpool, she has dedicated her career to seeking an end to the injustices of poverty, inequality and environmental exploitation.

Before joining CAFOD, Christine spent 17 years in leadership roles at two other faith-based international development organisations. Between 2012 and 2019 she was the Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Christian Aid. Prior to that, she spent 11 years as the Executive Director of Progressio (CIIR), where she helped the organisation to grow in its work supporting local communities to overcome poverty and marginalisation.

Before joining Progressio, she worked for ten years in housing, poverty and social exclusion in the UK as Head of Public Affairs at the National Housing Federation and Education Department Coordinator at CHAS. She has supported organisations working with homeless people and refugees and is a vocal contributor to Pray As You Go.

Christine said: "As a proud Liverpoolian, I am deeply honoured to receive this recognition from Liverpool Hope University, one of our country's finest educational institutions. Throughout my career, I have been driven by a commitment to social justice and the belief that everyone, regardless of where they are born, deserves the opportunity to live a life free from poverty and inequality.

"This award is a testament to the incredible work done by CAFOD and our partners around the world to support people in the most vulnerable communities. I am proud to be part of this journey and remain dedicated to advocating for change and empowering those who are all too often overlooked."

Professor Claire Ozanne, Liverpool Hope University Vice-Chancellor, said: "Christine has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to tackling poverty on a national and global level for more than 25 years.

"Her tireless dedication to social justice and her impactful work in international development exemplify the positive contribution we aspire for all our graduates to make in the world. It is therefore a privilege to acknowledge Christine's achievements with the University's highest honour."

This Sunday is **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, which was established by Pope Francis in 2021 to take place on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year's theme is "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. Psalm 71:9) and is meant "to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is experienced by many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture."

In his message, Pope Francis draws on the verse from Psalm 71 that depicts the plea of an elderly person who reflects on the story of their friendship with God. "By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness."

We thank God for our grandparents and senior citizens who have passed the faith on to our younger generations. We are grateful for their dedication to the church community and for their wisdom. *Fr John*

- **Welcome back** to all those who travelled on the **Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** – for the sick and those who travelled to help with sick pilgrims and hospitality. Thank you for praying for and remembering our sick parishioners. We have a large number of sick parishioners who are comforted by your prayers every day. Thank you.
- **Little Church:** There will be no Little Church in St Mary's or St Anthony's during the school holidays. Our Catechists are having a well-deserved break. We thank them for their work and commitment to our young children during the year. We wish parents, teachers and children a happy and refreshing summer holiday.
- The **T and Chat Group** will next meet on **Tuesday 6th August** at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Please note that the meeting will be at the **earlier time of 10am to 11.30am for this month only**. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments served. Please contact Josie Lorimer for further information on 406063.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 27th July	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
17 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 28th July	9.30am	St Anthony's	Fintan Gaffney, 4 th anniversary
17 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Monica Singleton, deceased
Monday 29th July	12.10pm	St Mary's	William Doherty, recently died
Saints Mary, Martha & Lazarus			
Tuesday 30th July	<i>No Service today</i> 12.10pm	<i>St Anthony's</i> St Mary's	<i>No Eucharistic Service today</i> Catherine Fincher, anniversary
Wednesday 31st July	12.10pm	St Mary's	Francie M ^c Conville, sick
St Ignatius Loyola			
Thursday 1st August	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Bried Britton, recently died Callum Moore, recently died
St Alphonsus Liguori			
Friday 2nd August	10.00am 12.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Funeral Service: Jimmy Green Requiem Mass: Nora Roberts
Saturday 3rd August	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 4th August	9.30am	St Anthony's	Monica Caley, 1 st anniversary
18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Sheila Hennessy, anniversary

Please pray for our parishioners **Nora Roberts** and **Jimmy Green** whose funerals will take place this week. We remember their grieving families and friends who mourn their loss. May they rest in peace.

Pope Francis appeals for Olympic Truce

Pope Francis expresses his wish that the Olympic and Paralympic Games which begin in Paris this weekend, provide an opportunity to establish a truce in ongoing wars and that the athletes be messengers of peace. Speaking after the Angelus with pilgrims in St Peter's Square the Pope expressed his hope that the Games provide the opportunity for warring nations to respect an ancient Greek tradition and establish a truce for the duration of the Games.

"According to ancient tradition, may the Olympics be an opportunity to establish a truce in wars, demonstrating a sincere will for peace."

He said: "Sport also has a great social power, capable of peacefully uniting people from different cultures."

"I hope that this event can be a sign of the inclusive world we want to build and that the athletes, with their sporting testimony, may be messengers of peace and valuable models for the young."

The tradition of the "Olympic Truce" originally aimed to allow safe participation in the ancient Olympic Games for all athletes and spectators from Greek city-states who were constantly engaged in conflict with each other.

In the 1990s the International Olympic Committee decided to revive the concept of the Olympic Truce with a view to protecting the interests of the athletes and sport in general and to harness the power of sport to promote peace, dialogue and reconciliation more broadly.

The Pope concluded his address by once again appealing for prayers for peace:

"Let us not forget the martyred Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar and many other countries at war. Let us not forget, let us not forget, war is a defeat!"