

NEWSLETTER

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

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18th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 4th August 2024 and

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 11th August 2024

(Page 114 and 117 in Mass book)

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

Dear Parishioners

We've all been moved by recent events in **Southport**; the violent loss of innocent life so close to home. Southport is part of our Archdiocese. The anguish of the parents of the three little girls and of the critically injured is unimaginable. It brings home to me the horror of innocent young lives lost in Gaza, in Israel, in Ukraine and in other parts of the world. I'm almost immune to the sight of grieving parents on my TV screen and it takes an event like Southport to make me realise how great their suffering must be. There is something perverse in human nature that allows resentment to feed into hatred. Social media encourages fear and suspicion to lead to violence. We rely on our leaders to have the courage to calm this escalation of outrage and evil. There are leaders who thrive on traumatic events and manipulate them for their own advantage.

This week Pope Francis stressed the importance of leadership and good politics. "Today, politics doesn't have a very good reputation: corruption, scandals, distant from people's day-to-day lives." The Pope's words seem to say what many of us are thinking – that politics is a dirty business in the hands of those who only think of getting rich or holding power. Pope Francis is saying something different; that another type of politics is always possible, at the service of the people, in particular, of the poorest. We all need "good politics," The temptation to get rid of politics, often raised by populists of every type, is a huge delusion. Pope Francis recalls the words of **Pope Paul VI who defined politics as "one of the highest forms of charity because it seeks the common good."**

This is why Christians, especially the laity, are called to participate in political life, to collaborate in building a more just and supportive society. "**Individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for all, they enter the 'field of charity at its most vast, namely political charity.'**" Pope Francis wrote, reflecting on this theme in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (2020). In his message, Pope Francis asserts that **good politics** is not "holed up in huge buildings with large hallways," but "listens to what is really going on," is "at the service of the poor," and is "concerned about the unemployed." When a politician does not allow space for dialogue, cooperation and the commitment to the dignity of people – key aspects that the **Pope** emphasizes in *Fratelli Tutti* – the integral development of society is not achieved. Problems such as hunger, poverty, war, or the environmental crisis, to name a few, continue to be exacerbated due to egotistical and power-hungry political leadership.

Some weeks ago, I wrote of the **New Translation of the Scripture Readings at Mass**. We are obliged to introduce the new Lectionary on the **1st Sunday of Advent**, 1st December 2024. We have been asked to help parishioners prepare for this change. Prior to Covid we had a series of regular evenings '**Reflections on the Word**'. They were well supported. We considered how our everyday lives are enriched by the scripture readings on successive Sundays. Fidelity to the original versions of the Word of God in Hebrew and Greek present particular challenges. At every Mass we ask ourselves what God is saying to us in the readings. The readings are a mirror that the Holy Spirit holds before us to help us recognise his voice in the circumstances of our lives. Revival of these evenings of reflection will provide an opportunity to tell the story of the new '**English Standard Version Catholic Edition**' and to experience at first-hand how it differs from the existing '**Jerusalem Bible**' version. These sessions will be of interest to our Readers at Mass as well as to those who simply want to deepen their understanding of the scriptures. The first of these sessions will take place **at 7.00pm on Wednesday 18th September at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan.**

Last Sunday Archbishop Malcolm spoke of the **Adoremus Eucharistic Pilgrimages taking place on Saturday 21st September** at both the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle Douglas. **Our day of Eucharistic Adoration starts at 10.00am at St Mary's and finishes with the usual 5.00pm Saturday evening Mass.** The pilgrimage is for parishioners from all our Catholic churches on the Island. St Anthony's Onchan and St Mary of the Isle parishes will take care of the period from 10.00am to 12noon; St Patrick's Peel and Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Maughold Ramsey from 12.00 to 2.00pm; and St Mary's Castletown and St Columba's Port Erin from 2.00pm until 4.00pm. St Mary of the Isle and St Anthony's will also take care of the final hour until Mass at 5.00pm.

This year's **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** will take place from **Sunday 13th October to Monday 21st October**. More details later.

Eucharistic Ministers are required to have their ministry periodically renewed. This involves a formal training session and recommissioning ceremony with the presentation to each minister of a *pagella* or certificate signed by the Archbishop authorising their ministry. This is required if they wish to continue in their role. A day of renewal was last held in November 2019. **Elizabeth Parsons**, Director of the Pastoral Development Department **and Mark Robson** are travelling to the Island to conduct a **Training and Recommissioning event on Saturday 5th October**. Further details will be announced after the holiday period. Please record this date in your diaries. All Eucharistic Ministers are requested to attend. *Fr John*

- **St Anthony's Bingo** will take place on Thursday 8th August at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome including visitors.
- 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 for further information on 406063.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £862, St Anthony's £658. 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

Saturday 3rd August 18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 4th August 18 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Monica Caley, 1 st anniversary Sheila Hennessy, anniversary
Monday 5th August	<i>No Mass or Service</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
Tuesday 6th August <i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	<i>No Service today</i> 12.10pm	<i>St Anthony's</i> St Mary's	<i>No Eucharistic Service today</i> Decd mbrs M ^c Nally & Wheeler families
Wednesday 7th August	12.10pm	St Mary's	Dympna Sheehan, anniversary
Thursday 8th August St Dominic	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Mr Brady (Ireland) deceased Dunni Adeniyi, intentions
Friday 9th August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	12.10pm	St Mary's	Michael Clyne, recently died
Saturday 10th August 19 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions Brian Keenan, anniversary
Sunday 11th August 19 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes May & Frank Quayle, anniversary
Monday 12th August	<i>No Mass or Service</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
Tuesday 13th August	10.00am 12.10pm	<i>St Anthony's</i> St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Camille Maglalang, special intention
Wednesday 14th August St Maximillian Kolbe	12.10pm	St Mary's	Aileen Burrows, deceased
Thursday 15th August <i>Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (Holyday)</i>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Rosa Leonetti, birthday anniversary Lauren Tierney, recently died
Friday 16th August	10.00am 12.10pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Funeral Service: Beryl Nelson Mary Hardinge, birthday anniversary
Saturday 17th August 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions Norah Cullinane, anniversary
Sunday 18th August 20 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Alan Lynch, anniversary

We remember in our prayers our parishioner **Beryl Nelson** who died this week. May she rest in peace.

'And when night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with him.' St Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)