

NEWSLETTER

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

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31st Sunday of Ordinary Time, 3rd November 2024

(Year B for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays) (Page 152 in Mass book)

Dear Parishioners

People often ask me if Saint Mary of the Isle's Cathedral status has made any difference. It's a difference of perception. The fact that we have a Co-Cathedral on the Island reminds the rest of the Liverpool Archdiocese that we are a significant part of their (and our) Archdiocese. At the same time the permanent presence of the Archbishop's chair on the sanctuary at Saint Mary of the Isle is a reminder to those of us on the Island that Liverpool's Archbishop is our Archbishop, too. It's also an acknowledgement that the Island has a proud ancient Celtic Christian heritage reaching back to Patrick and Maughold – over 1000 years before Liverpool even existed.

In the twelve months that we have been a cathedral an increasing number access our liturgies online. I quote from an email I received this week from someone who follows our novena to Mary Untier of Knots from the UK:

'Thank you so much for all the work you have put into these liturgies and your personal contributions which I have found thought provoking and moving. Have very much enjoyed the prayers offered, the speakers and the music. During the anointing, listening to the music I was moved to tears. Thank you for your courage in speaking out for inclusion in the church and in your prayers asking forgiveness for some of the stances taken by the church in the past. The contributions from a variety of speakers have provided a wealth of insights.'

This too was received in a hand-written card today:

'I am writing to tell you how much the Novena to Mary Untier of Knots meant to me. The services were so thought-provoking and have made me see much clearer the knots in my own life. I do admire you for dealing with such difficult subjects. My life has been touched by all of them.'

This year there has been an increasing number of visitors. Some are from cruise liners docked in Douglas who come for Sunday Mass. Many onboard are from the United States and European countries. Others are biker enthusiasts from a variety of countries visiting during the TT and Manx Grand Prix. Some arrive on coach breaks. Others are independent tourists who have taken the trouble to find us. One couple came from Lancaster for a weekend just to see our 'new' cathedral. There has been an increase throughout the summer months of visitors popping into St Mary's and making one off donations on our tap and pay machine. Their generosity offsets the increasing cost of keeping the cathedral warm in winter.

Not all of our visitors are tourists, however. There are temporary signs letting people know that Saint Mary's is a cathedral. These will be replaced in the coming months. However, within days of being made a Cathedral, the Google maps app was updated to include the location of the Co-Cathedral.

Pope Francis has said: *'Churches must always **have their doors open** because this is a symbol of what a church is: always open. The Church is called to always be the open house of the Father'*. We are fortunate that St Mary's proximity to the presbytery and parish office allows us to do this. The cathedral is open from early morning until teatime unless there are evening events. Throughout the day there is rarely a time when there isn't at least one person present, sitting or kneeling quietly and maybe lighting a candle. Pope Francis has described the church as a **'field hospital'**, a place of refuge for those carrying wounds, burdens and sorrows. Many of our visitors never make it to Mass but they see the church as a welcoming place where they will be welcomed anonymously, on their own terms, without fuss or demands or judgement. Some tell me of the difficult situations in their lives; others may be bullied at work close by. Some may come in for peace and quiet. The church is also more welcoming when it's warm.

Archbishop Malcolm has agreed to preside at a special Mass at 7.00pm this coming Thursday 7th November. He will be accompanied by several of the **Chapter of Cathedral Canons** who attended the inauguration last year. Our choir will be helping to make this occasion special. The Mass will be followed by drinks and nibbles. Please try to attend this Mass if you can.

Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2025: For those young people who have been successful in obtaining a place on next year's Lourdes pilgrimage please email directly St Mary's parish office at saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk. There are some changes to leaders and safeguarding procedures with the Archdiocesan Youth Pilgrimage for next year. We are liaising with them about this.

The next session of our **Reflections on the Word** will be on **Wednesday 13 November at 7pm** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone is welcome.

The **Holy Souls** will be remembered during our November Masses. Envelopes are available at the back of church to include the names of those you wish to be remembered. These can then be placed in the box in front of the altar.

- The **'Warm and Cosy Hub'** resumed on **Monday 28 October** and will run each week on Monday and Friday from 10am until 2pm throughout the winter months in the Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas. Hot soup with bread and butter will be served - tea, coffee and biscuits with a warm welcome. Thanks to the Knights and volunteers.
- **T and Chat** will next meet on **5 November 2024** from **10.30am to 12noon**. Sue Magee has kindly offered to do a floral arrangement presentation. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Tea/coffee and cake will be served.
- **Island Spirituality Network:** On **Saturday 9 November** at St John's Mill, **from 10am to 1pm**, Revd Chris Lane, priest, author, theological tutor and pioneer missional church leader in inner-city Salford, will be the guest speaker. His theme will be "Good news for the Poor – Stories from urban ministry and the Gospel of Luke." All welcome.
- The **Columba Catholic Club** will be holding a **Cheese and Wine evening** on **Saturday 16th November**. Tickets priced at £15.00 are available from Richard Coase (487057) or Brian Murphy (350070). The price includes a variety of wines and selection of cheeses and accompaniments. Doors open at 7.00pm. Net proceeds to the Columba Club.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for **St Anthony's Church, Onchan**, will be emptied this week. If you have a box, please leave it in St. Anthony's church porch.
- **CAFOD** as a member of the **Disasters Emergency Committee** has joined efforts to launch an emergency appeal to help families in Gaza and Lebanon. They ask for compassion, donations and prayers. Please see posters at back.
- **A Christmas Indoor Boot Fair** will take place on **Saturday 30 November** from **10am to 4pm** at the **Columba Club**. All proceeds will go to the Columba Club. The Manx Youth Band will be playing at 4pm to welcome the erection of the Crib in the garden. For more details, please see the poster at the back of church.
- **St Anthony's SVP Christmas party for adult parishioners** will be held on **Saturday 7 December** from **2 - 4pm** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. The **children's Christmas party** will take place on **Sunday 8 December** from **2 - 3.30pm** in the Pastoral Centre. Santa Claus will be making an appearance plus a magician for the children. Forms for registering for both parties will be at the back of church this weekend. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,430, St Anthony's £683. 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

Saturday 2nd November <i>All Souls Day</i> 31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Holy Souls
Sunday 3rd November 31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Edward Fargher, anniversary
Monday 4th November St Charles Borromeo	12.10pm	St Mary's	George Corrin, anniversary
Tuesday 5th November	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Trudy Cain, 5 th anniversary
Wednesday 6th November	12.10pm	St Mary's	Elaine Gately, recently died
Thursday 7th November	10.00am 12.10pm - No Mass 7.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> No Mass or Service 1st anniversary Cathedral Inauguration
Friday 8th November	12.10pm	St Mary's	Glen Strachan, recently died (Edinburgh)
Saturday 9th November 32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes
Sunday 10th November 32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Remembrance Sunday	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Denis Creedon, anniversary Shaun O'Hare, 3 rd anniversary

We remember in our prayers our parishioner **Marie Leavey** who died this week. May she rest in peace. We think of her grieving family and friends who mourn her loss. Marie's funeral Mass will take place on Friday 15 November.