

NEWSLETTER

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

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Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Universal King; 24th November 2024

Youth Sunday

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

(Page 160 in Mass book)

Dear Parishioners

Young people are sometimes dismissed as the 'snowflake' generation. But I find myself humbled by their sensitivity to injustice and unfairness in today's world. While we, the older generation, fumble around with 'realpolitik' and compromise, they are straightforwardly outraged by the blatant evil of the current slaughter in Gaza and Ukraine. They challenge the blindness of those in denial over the catastrophic consequences of climate change. They champion those subject to routine discrimination – be they LGBTQ+, minority ethnic, or even disabled. In short, they are more open to reading the signs of the times than those who hold the reins of power and manipulate them to their own short-term advantage.

Adept at navigating their electronic devices, young people are also exposed to **the negative consequences of social media**: online bullying and fake news. They are exploited by the purveyors of pornography, denying them healthy appreciation of sexuality and relationships. Appallingly, the trust of many young people has been betrayed by sexual abuse at the heart of the church. They are preyed on by those selling drugs and who even recruit them to exploit their own friends. Their fragile mental health is at risk in so many ways. Unlike previous generations, the networks of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins on whom we relied in the past are no longer available to them as extended families disperse across countries and even continents.

Young people have suffered most from the COVID pandemic. Their education has been interrupted. Literacy and numeracy has declined. While the majority of European countries offer free university education, students in the UK are saddled with debt for years to come. The likelihood of them ever getting to own their own homes is diminished. The possibility of saving for a deposit on a house is unlikely as their resources are diverted into paying exorbitant rents.

Speaking to a huge gathering of young people in East Timor this September, **Pope Francis** told them to respect the elderly and to love others regardless of differences, telling them "**wreak havoc**" and "**make a mess**". Young people challenge our complacency. They ask the awkward questions and address the elephants in the room. They are the prophets of our generation. Today, **the Feast of Christ the Universal King**, is also **Youth Sunday**. Pope Francis has described young people as '**The living hope of the church on the move**'.

In the Baptism ceremony each candidate, child or adult, is anointed as **priest, prophet and king**. The model of Kingship we follow is not that of the dictator and overlord but that of the **Servant King**. '**Among the pagans the rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No, anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**' (Matthew 20:26-28). These values are beautifully expressed in the hymn 'the Servant King'.

From heaven you came helpless babe; entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served but to serve; and give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King; He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears; my heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said

Come see His hands and His feet, the scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space, to cruel nails surrendered

So let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him
Each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving. (Graham Kendrick 1983)

Fr John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025: Children attending St Mary's Catholic Primary School are being prepared for First Holy Communion as part of the school's RE curriculum. The school liaises with parents directly on arrangements. Parents and Guardians of **Year 4 children living in our parishes who attend other non-Catholic schools who wish to make their First Holy Communion in 2025 are required to register their names by e-mail with the parish office saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk**. They will then receive an application form followed by an invitation to attend evening classes at St Anthony's, Onchan. Six sessions of preparation are required, taking place next Spring. Thank you to our parish catechists who lead the preparation course.

Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2025: Thank you to those young people who got in touch to say they have been successful in obtaining a place on next year's Lourdes pilgrimage. If any other young people would like to go to Lourdes next summer please email directly St Mary's parish office at saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk.

- **Christmas Indoor Boot Fair:** Due to an insufficient uptake of stallholders, this event scheduled for **Saturday 30 November** at the **Columba Club** is **CANCELLED**. The **erection of the Crib will go ahead at 4pm** with the Manx Youth Band in attendance. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies available. Please do come along.
 - **The T and Chat** group will next meet on **Tuesday 3 December** at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre from **10.30-12 noon**. As this is the last gathering before Christmas, Onchan School choir will lead the festivities. Tea/coffee and mince pies/cakes will be served. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. The group is supported by the SVP who provide support to vulnerable and needy people on the island. Further information from Josie on 406063.
 - **St Peter's Mothers' Union, Onchan** invites ladies from our Church and Onchan Methodist Church to an afternoon of entertainment and refreshments on **Tuesday 3 December at 2pm** at the Village Hall, Onchan.
 - The **'Warm and Cosy Hub'** continues each week on Monday and Friday from 10am until 2pm throughout the winter months in the Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas. Hot soup, bread & butter and tea/coffee served.
 - **Churches Alive in Mann** World Development Committee have arranged an ecumenical event called **AlterNativity** in **St Thomas's Church, Douglas at 7.30pm on Thursday 5 December**. Stories and presentations from Ukraine and Gaza will be included with Ukrainian children singing their own Christmas Carols. Please support if you can.
 - **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. See registration forms at the back of church. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,095, St Anthony's £529. 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 23rd November <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 24th November <i>Youth Sunday</i> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Brenda Park, 12 th anniversary Frank O'Neill, 7 th anniversary
Monday 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria	12.10pm	St Mary's	Peter Simpson, anniversary
Tuesday 26th November	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> George Bridson, anniversary
Wednesday 27th November	12.10pm	St Mary's	Theresa & John Saxon intentions
Thursday 28th November St Catherine Labouré	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Hugh & Pearl M'Feat anniv Patrick & Mary Reaney anniversary
Friday 29th November	12.10pm	St Mary's	Jeff Wallace, recently died
Saturday 30th November 1 st Sunday of Advent	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions Ann Fox, deceased
Sunday 1st December 1 st Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	David Killey, 5th anniversary People of our Parishes