

# NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) Website [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024**

**Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers**

**and**

**Feast of the Holy Family, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

(Year C for Sundays) (Cycle 1 for weekdays)

(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass)

(Page 776, 22<sup>nd</sup> December; Page 48, 29<sup>th</sup> December, for Mass readings)

Dear Parishioners

As I write on the final day of term at St Mary's school, a moving scene unfolded on the main road approaching the school. A little boy, holding his mother's hand, was helped across the road by the lollypop man. When safely on the other side the child presented the lollypop man with a beautifully wrapped Christmas present. To me that represents the spirit of Christmas. The little boy and his mum are helped across the road every day but Christmas is the time we acknowledge the routine support and courtesies we take for granted during the rest of the year. It's a wonderful lesson for that little boy. That same spirit encapsulates all that St Mary's school instils in our children. It's a pleasure when I walk into the school and receive welcoming smiles and waves from the children. That's why our school is so special. Our thanks are due to Mrs Donna Martin and her dedicated staff for all they do for our children.

It was an added pleasure to see St Mary's church filled with children, parents, grandparents and staff on Thursday for the annual presentation of Hosanna Rock in which they told the Christmas story. It was great so many dads were able to make it. The children raised the roof with their wonderful singing and acting. Thanks again to all at St Mary's School. Numbers of those enrolling their children at St Mary's continues to rise – a further tribute to the work of Governors and Staff in raising the profile and reputation of the school.

Looking back over the year one event stands out. Fr Brian Dougherty's 25<sup>th</sup> Ordination anniversary in July was a day in which the parish was at its best. The hymns and readings were chosen by Fr Brian himself. Bishop Tom Neylon travelled across for a special Mass supported by our choir. The weather was kind to us as we enjoyed drinks and canapés together. Fr Brian has a special place in the life of St Mary's. It was a lovely occasion. We wish Fr Brian good health and happiness in the year ahead.

Christmas is the time when we express our appreciation to all those who keep the show on the road throughout the year. Some parishioners' contributions are visible and public, others work quietly behind the scenes. We thank them all. But it's also nice to be on the receiving end of your gifts to me. Countless cards, bottles, cakes, fruit and chocolates. It's nice to be spoiled.

Christmas can also be a time of sadness for those who have recently lost someone they love. For some it's an empty seat at the dinner table. For others it's the absence of a Christmas card they used to receive year on year. For others again their loved ones are out of reach across the seas. It's moving to see people queuing each year to place the names of those whom they will miss in the basket under the tree. We enfold these names in God's loving arms. All are included in the Christmas Masses we celebrate '**For all our Christmas Intentions**'.

I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas to you, your families and friends.

*Fr John*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> marks the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year**, a worldwide year of renewal and reconciliation. Archbishop Malcolm will inaugurate the Jubilee Year in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool. Simultaneously **Bishop Tom Neylon**, the Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, is travelling to the Island to **celebrate a special Mass at 11.00am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December at our own Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle.**

\*\*\*\*\*

- **SVP Adult Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday 28 December from 2 - 4pm in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre.
- **T and Chat** group will meet on **7 January 2025** from **10.30am to 12noon**. The group will welcome Howard Parkin, astronomer. Refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome. Further information from Josie on 406063.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,045, St Anthony's £505. 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 throughout the year.

## Masses and Services for the next two weeks

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

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	St Mary's	Monica & John Crowe, deceased
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <i>Day for Expectant Mothers</i> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Simon Mellon, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Una Kelly, deceased
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<i>Come to the Manger Service</i>
<b>First Masses of Christmas Vigil of the Nativity</b>	<b>5.30pm</b> <b>8.00pm</b> <i>(Carols from 7.30pm)</i> <b>10.00pm</b> <i>(Carols from 9.30pm)</i>	<b>St Mary's</b> <b>St Anthony's</b> <b>St Mary's</b>	For all our Christmas Intentions For all our Christmas Intentions For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Stephen, First Martyr	12.10pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>No Confessions</i>		<i>No Exposition or Confessions</i>
<b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	5.00pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Beginning of Jubilee Year 2025</i> <b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<i>No Mass today</i>		<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025</b> <b>Mary, Mother of God</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> St Basil the Great, St Gregory Nazianzen	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> The Most Holy Name of Jesus	12.10pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions For all our Christmas Intentions
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Stephen Craig, 34 <sup>th</sup> anniversary People of our Parishes



"every day somewhere in the world the nativity scene is alive."

