

NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk Website www.manxcatholic.org

The Epiphany of the Lord, 5th January 2025

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

(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass)

(Page 61 for Mass readings)



Dear Parishioners

2025 is the Jubilee year, inaugurated by Pope Francis on Christmas Eve at the door of St Peter's in Rome and at the door of our Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle on Sunday 29th December, the feast of the Holy Family. Every New Year gives a chance for a fresh start. At the time of this Jubilee year, it could be said there is ever more need for a fresh start in today's world – broken by wars, violence and suffering and increasingly split apart by extremist posturing; by politicians happy to exploit and fan the flames of division for their own ends.

I'm reminded of the opening lines of the New Year poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson: **'Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring happy bells across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.'** The only place to begin change on a global scale is with ourselves; to begin with change in me, in my own heart. And that's where our Jubilee year must begin.

As this Holy Year unfolds, we will be providing opportunities to renew our faith and improve the quality of our lives. The inauguration ceremony starting the Holy Year focused on three things: **Christ knocking on the door** asking to be let in; the **Veneration of the Cross**; the **Baptismal Font** – the source of life. Next Sunday is the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**, an opportunity to renew our Baptism Promises at all of our Masses.

This week saw the death of **former US President Jimmy Carter** at the age of 100. It is said he effected more change in his years after leaving office than during his time in the White House. Former US President Gerald Ford, a Republican, was asked why he lost the 1977 presidential election to Democratic candidate **Jimmy Carter**. He replied **'I was beaten by a good man'**. That's the consensus shared by everyone across the political divide on hearing of President Jimmy Carter's death. But it's best to allow former President Carter to speak for himself:

'We should live our lives as though Christ were coming this afternoon'.

On Politics:

'You can't divorce religious belief and public service. I've never detected any conflict between God's will and my political duty. If you violate one, you violate the other.'

'You can do what you have to do, and sometimes you can do it even better than you think you can.'

'I'll never tell a lie. I'll never make a misleading statement. I'll never betray the confidence that any of you had in me. And I'll never avoid a controversial issue.'

'If you fear making anyone mad (angry), then you ultimately probe for the lowest common denominator of human achievement.'

On Religion:

'When I speak at my local church, which I try to do 35 to 40 times a year, I try in every lesson to take the Old Testament text or New Testament text and apply them to what is happening to me or how that applies to the audience that I'm teaching in a modern, fast-changing, technological world.'

'We have a tendency to condemn people who are different from us, to define their sins as paramount and our own sinfulness as being insignificant.'

'I separated from the Southern Baptists when they adopted the discriminatory attitude towards women, because I believe what Paul taught in Galatians that there is no distinction in God's eyes between men and women, slaves and masters, Jews and non-Jews - everybody is created equally in the eyes of God.'

'Jesus never said a word about homosexuality. In all of his teachings about multiple things - he never said that gay people should be condemned. I personally think it is very fine for gay people to be married in civil ceremonies.'

On War:

'War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children.'

'We cannot be both the world's leading champion of peace and the world's leading supplier of the weapons of war.'

On the Middle East:

'When I was elected President, nobody asked me to negotiate between Israel and Egypt. It was not even a question raised in my campaign. But I felt that one of the reasons that I was elected President was to try to bring peace to the Holy Land.'

'My constant prayer, my number one foreign goal, is to bring peace to Israel. And in the process to Israel's neighbours.'

'Because I know about the Holy Land, I've taught lessons about the Holy Land all my life - but you can't bring peace to Israel without also giving the Palestinians peace. And Lebanon and Jordan and Syria as well.'

'Unless both sides win, no agreement can be permanent.'

President Carter's simplicity, integrity and wisdom remind us that our thoughts, our words and our prayers can make a difference, can lift our own and other people's souls and bring out the best in them

'We should live our lives as though Christ were coming this afternoon'.

Thanks so much for the many cards, gifts and good wishes that I have received this Christmas - and thanks for your support and expressions of appreciation that I receive all year round. A special thanks to those who generously give of their time. We rely on a solid core of committed parishioners to make things happen. Happy and Healthy New Year to you and your families!
Fr John

- **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.
- **Island Spirituality Network** will resume on **Saturday 11 January from 10am to 1pm in St John's Mill** with guest speaker **Revd Andy Fishburne**, Discipleship and Faith Formation Officer for the Methodist Church in Britain.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 4th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	For all our Christmas Intentions
Sunday 5th January <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Stephen Craig, 34 th anniversary People of our Parishes
Monday 6th January	No Mass today		No Mass or Service today
Tuesday 7th January	10.00am 10.00am 12.10pm	St Mary's St Anthony's St Mary's	Funeral Service: Susan Callow Eucharistic Service Hazel Smith, anniversary
Wednesday 8th January	12.10pm	St Mary's	Jocelyn Marquez, deceased
Thursday 9th January	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Albert Gubay, anniversary Billy Murray, anniversary
Friday 10th January	12.10pm	St Mary's	Ben McCarrick, deceased
Saturday 11th January The Baptism of the Lord	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions David Corkill, anniversary
Sunday 12th January The Baptism of the Lord	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Mary & Matthias Kaddu, deceased

We remember our parishioner **Susan Callow** whose funeral takes place on Tuesday. May she rest in peace. We think of her family and friends who mourn her loss.