**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2nd March 2025**

**Day for the Unemployed**

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

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass) (Page 808 for Mass readings)*

Dear Parishioners

It’s hard to believe that we’re already two months into the **Jubilee Year** which was inaugurated in our Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle on 29th December. On the same day the Jubilee Year was also inaugurated in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool. Three elements were identified on that day – the **Open Door** of the church through which Jesus invited us to enter into a closer relationship with him; the **Baptismal Water** which we used to renew our Baptismal Promises on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Sunday 12th January; and **the Cross**. A life-size Mission Crucifix dominates the back of Saint Mary’s Cathedral church. It’s a focus of popular devotion to those who slip in and out of the church throughout the day. Many identify with the suffering Christ in their times of trouble. Sometimes it’s difficult to find the right words, but lighting a candle before the cross is for many a recognition that Jesus is with them in their suffering and pain.

Next Wednesday, 5th March, is **Ash Wednesday** whenwe begin the sacred season of **Lent**. It’s a time of preparation for Easter. This year, the Jubilee Year, it has added significance. It’s a time when we have the opportunity to deepen the faith that may have become a familiar habit and move to a closer personal friendship with Jesus Christ. The Crucified Christ is the centre of our faith. It is said that no relationship can stand still, and the same applies to our relationship with our crucified Lord. The Jubilee Year is a time to celebrate that relationship and to deepen it. **We can make this year’s Lent special by rediscovering our closeness to the Crucified Christ.**

On **Wednesday, 12th March, at 7.00pm** we will gather around the Mission Cross at St Mary’s Cathedral Church to renew our dedication to the Crucified Christ. With our choir to support us, this **Special** **Jubilee Year Service** will celebrate our relationship with the Cross of Christ; an opportunity to make this Jubilee Year Lent extra special. Parishioners from across the Island are invited to join us. Stations of the Cross will take place at St Anthony’s at 7pm on the remaining Wednesdays of Lent commencing Wednesday 19th March.

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In the **Sacrament** **of** **Confirmation** our young people have the chance to make their own, the faith they have inherited from their parents. They had no choice in their Baptism. They can now choose to be Confirmed. Their interactions and discussion within a group of peers is invaluable in the development of a grown-up faith. It doesn’t mean that their understanding and questioning of that faith is over. Faith is not static. It flexes and bends throughout our lives and sometimes seems to disappear. In Confirmation a young person is committed to continuing to explore what that faith might mean for ME. And that’s a lifelong task.

This year young people currently in Year 8 are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Older children under 18, who have missed out on Confirmation in previous years will also be included.The preparation will consist of sessions in Ballakermeen High School at the end of the school day. Please email the parish office atsaintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk if you wish to enrol your child. Details of the preparation courses will then be sent to those who have enrolled. The date of the ceremony itself is being finalised in consultation with Archbishop’s House.

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In these days our thoughts and prayers are with **Pope Francis** in his hospital bed. The following selection of his sayings in this week’s ***‘Tablet’*** publication draws on the Holy Father’s own faith to help us face the challenges of today’s broken world and to ground our personal lives in the goodness of God.

*‘All of us will experience sundown, all of us! Do we look at it with hope? Do we look with that joy at being welcomed by the Lord? Today is a day of joy; however, it is a serene and tranquil joy, a peaceful joy. Let us think about the evening of our life; when it will come. And let us ask ourselves: ‘Where is my heart anchored?’ If it is not firmly anchored, let us anchor it beyond, on that shore, knowing that hope does not disappoint because the Lord Jesus does not disappoint.’* (Homily on the Feast of All Saints, 2013)

*‘And what is tenderness? It is the love that comes close and becomes real. It is a movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands. Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. A child’s love for mom or dad grows through their touch, their gaze, their voice, their tenderness. I like when I hear parents talk to their babies, adapting to the little child, sharing the same level of communication. This is tenderness: being on the same level as the other…… The future of humankind isn’t exclusively in the hands of politicians, of great leaders, of big companies. Yes, they do hold an enormous responsibility. But the future is, most of all in the hands of those people who recognise the other as ‘you’ and themselves as part of ‘us’. We all need each other.’* (Video message, Vancouver, 2017)

*‘Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God all things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds, turn our arid places into springs of water. Let us ask for the grace of hope, since hope revives our faith and rekindles our charity. It is for this hope that the deserts of today’s world are thirsting.’*(Custodians of Wonder: Daily Pope Francis, 2023) *Fr John*

* **St Peter’s Parish Church, Onchan** are running a Lent course based on the film ‘Les Misérables’. The course will start next **Tuesday 4th March at 7pm** with a full showing of the film and pancakes. The course will start properly the following Tuesday at 7pm and continue on the Tuesdays of Lent. All are welcome.
* **T and Chat** will meet on **Tuesday 4th March 2025** from **10.30am – 12 noon** at St Anthony’s Pastoral Centre. The group will be joined by Caitlin Dancox from MuchBetter to raise awareness on identity fraud and scamming. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie on 406063.
* **World Day of Prayer:** A Service for Everyone will be held in St Ninian’s Church, Douglas at **7pm on Friday 7 March**. The theme is ‘**I Made You Wonderful’.** Program written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of the Cook Islands.
* **Island Spirituality Network**: on **Saturday 8March** at **St John’s Mill** from **10am -1pm**. The speaker will be Revd Chris Howson, Sunderland University Chaplain on theme “The spirituality of Taizé - and the hope of reconciliation”. After the Sunderland riots last summer, Chris found solace at Taizé. All welcome.
* **Opportunity of Work Experience for young adults: CAFOD** and **St Vincent de Paul Society** are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young people during week 22 – 27 June 2025. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university. Accommodation, meals and travel costs to the CAFOD London Waterloo office will be covered. Please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk or Khutchinson@cafod.org.uk for more information. Closing date for applications 20 April 2025.
* **The Red Mill Hill Boxes for St Anthony’s** will be emptied this week. Please leave your box in the church porch.

* **The Warm and Cosy Hub** is open in the meeting room at the back of St Mary’s Church **every Monday and Friday** from **10am to 2pm.** Thanks to the volunteers who help with this.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 1st March**8th Sunday in Ordinary Time*Day for the Unemployed* | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | Caroline Connors, anniversary |
| **Sunday 2nd March** 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time *Day for the Unemployed* | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Sheila Creedon, anniversaryPeople of our Parishes |
| **Monday 3rd March** | 12.10pm  | St Mary’s | Pat Gaffey, recently died |
| **Tuesday 4th March** | *10.00am* 12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service* Romelia Hernandez Beltrán, decd |
| **Wednesday 5th March*****Ash Wednesday*** | 12.10pm7.00pm | St Mary’sSt Anthony’s | David Cain, anniversarySonja Lees, recently died |
| **Thursday 6th March** | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Deceased ClergyDoyle & Ross families |
| **Friday 7th March**St Perpetua, St FelicityWorld Day of Prayer | 12.10pm  | St Mary’s | Mema Kuraijam, recently died |
| **Saturday 8th March**1st Sunday of Lent | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 9th March**1st Sunday of Lent | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Jenny Kinahan, recently diedQuintin Larkin, 3rd anniversary |