**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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**Easter Sunday, 20th April 2025 & 2nd Sunday of Easter, 27th April 2025**

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

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

 *Mass Readings:* Page 271 (Easter Sunday); 847 (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Dear Parishioners,

The following extract is taken from an article written by Pope Francis in 1992 while he was an auxiliary bishop in Buenos Aires:
*‘This reflection raises the question of* ***the Christian Theology of Hope and Failure****, which comes from considering the Passion and death of Jesus. The historical failure of Jesus and the frustration of so many expectations (“We had hoped….” Luke 24:21) are for Christian faith the way par excellence by which God reveals himself in Christ and brings about salvation. Jesus himself had foreseen this: “He who saves his life will lose it. He who loses his life will save it” (Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24).*

*The failure of the enterprise of salvation was already present, in a fragmented and less intense way, in the story of the Exodus from Egypt and possession of the promised land. For example, Moses feels a failure when he finds himself on the shore of the Red Sea, surrounded by unhappy people with the Egyptians at his back. His options at this point are few. He can surrender to the Egyptians, try to make a deal with them, commit suicide, or trust in God. He chooses the last, and God makes himself present in the radical impotence of human means. The same happens when the people grumble, asking for water, meat and so on. God makes us feel his impotence right until the end and intervenes only at that point.*

*Jesus’ failure is part of this dynamic. When all is lost, when there is no one left – because “I shall strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered” (Matthew 26:31) – God intervenes with the power of his Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not the finale of a film; it is God’s intervention at the point of total impossibility of human hope. It is the intervention that proclaims as Lord the one who accepted the path of failure in order that the power of the Father be revealed and glorified.”* (**‘The Failure of the Cross’** by Jorge Mario Bergoglio 1992)

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I would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies in both our churches: church cleaners, those who serve hot drinks after Mass, choirs, flower arrangers, readers, eucharistic ministers, stewards, catechists, altar servers and all those hidden helpers who give their time to our parishes throughout the year. Many of you will be visiting family and friends off-Island over Easter. Others will be welcoming family members to the Island. **I wish you all a Happy Easter wherever you spend it**. A big thank you to those who have sent me Easter good wishes and gifts.

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**Jubilee Year
Archbishop Malcolm will be visiting our Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle to mark the Jubilee Year** on the weekend of 26th/27th April, **Low Sunday**, the first Sunday after Easter Sunday. Easter has an OCTAVE. The eighth and final day of the Octave is celebrated as if it were still Easter Sunday itself. Masses celebrated that weekend by the Archbishop with have an explicit Easter Jubilee Year theme and provide a further opportunity to renew our commitment to our faith. Given the appointment of our new Archbishop John Sherrington, who will be installed on 27 May, this will be the final occasion on which Archbishop Malcolm will be visiting the island as our Archbishop.

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**Jubilee Year:** On **Saturday, 26th April**, as part of the parish activities commemorating the Jubilee year, St Mary’s Castletown and St Columba’s Port Erin are hosting a day titled “PILGRIMS OF HOPE”. It will be led by **Rev. Fr. Eamonn Mulcahy, CSSp,** an esteemed theologian and lecturer. This event will take place at St Columba’s Hall, Port Erin commencing at 10am with Morning Prayer and finishing with Evening Prayer at 3.30pm. To help with catering arrangements please email Castletown parish at stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk if you wish to attend.

*Fr John*

* The Columba Club will host a **Quiz Night on Saturday 26 April**. Proceeds will be split between the Columba Club and the Lourdes Youth Fund. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets priced at £10 per head inclusive of refreshments are available at the back of church and from St Mary’s Parish Office. Donations will be gratefully received for a raffle to take place during the evening.
* Churches Alive in Mann (CAiM) World Development Committee is hosting an event on Saturday 26 April in St Thomas’ Church between 10am – 12 noon. This will be the first of a series to offer encouragement and hope to people to work towards a fairer and more just world in the areas of environment and global issues. It is for people and families of all ages of all faiths and none. Please see poster at that back of church.

**Masses and Services for the next two weeks**

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

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| **Saturday 19th April** **HOLY SATURDAY Easter Vigil with First Mass of Easter** | 12.00 noon***7.30pm*** | St Mary’s***St Mary’s*** | Blessing of Food for Polish communityPeople of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 20th April** **EASTER SUNDAY** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Jimmy Stack, anniversaryGeorge Corrin, anniversary |
| **Monday 21st April**St Anselm | No Mass today  |  | No Mass today |
| **Tuesday 22nd April** | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*John Wright, deceased |
| **Wednesday 23rd April** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Julia Mooney |
| **Thursday 24th April** | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Bridget BraidBernadette Adams, recently died |
| **Friday 25th April**St Mark  | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Deceased Clergy |
| **Saturday 26th April**2nd Sunday of EasterLow Sunday | 11.00am to 12 noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | No Exposition or Confessions Michael McCarrick, anniversary |
| **Sunday 27th April**2nd Sunday of EasterLow Sunday***St Maughold, Patron of IoM***  | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | People of our ParishesMartin & Marcus Reaney, anniversary |

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| **Monday 28th April**St George  | 12.10pm  | St Mary’s | Sick and housebound parishioners |
| **Tuesday 29th April**St Catherine of Siena | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Breda Watters, birthday anniversary |
| **Wednesday 30th April**St Pius V | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Julie O’Neill |
| **Thursday 1st May**St Joseph the Worker | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Veronica StackhouseRose & William Keenan, anniversary |
| **Friday 2nd May**St Athanasius  | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Brian Nally, deceased |
| **Saturday 3rd May**3rd Sunday of Easter | ***10.30am***5.00pm | ***St Mary’s***St Mary’s | ***First Holy Communion Mass for children of St Mary’s School****No Exposition or Confessions today*Tim O’Hanlon, 4th anniversary |
| **Sunday 4th May**3rd Sunday of Easter | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Sonja Lees, recently diedPeople of our Parishes |

An Easter Thought: *In the silence of the upper room, may I hear Your voice – not of condemnation; but of mercy calling me back. Give me the grace to stay with You in the garden, to carry the cross with You in my daily life; and to believe that Your light shines, even in the night of my failures.*