**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 13th April 2025**

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

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

Dear Parishioners

You will find details over the page of our services for Holy Week. I will be representing the Isle of Man at the annual Chrism Mass traditionally held each year on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week at our Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. One of our parishioners will also be taking part in the procession along with representatives from other parishes in the Archdiocese.

This week Joseph Kelly from ‘Theos’ reported on new research published by the Bible Society entitled **‘The Quiet Revival’:**
*‘It suggests a quiet revival; a very British one – not showy, not loud, but steady and understated. The findings conducted by YouGov are significant, however. It suggests that*[*the decline in church*](https://www.premierchristianity.com/features/how-to-halt-the-decline/12937.article)*attendance in England and Wales has now stopped – there were around two million more people attending church in 2024 than there had been in 2018…...*

*The Church is now in a period of growth,*[***with Gen Z leading the charge***](https://www.premierchristianity.com/news-analysis/10000-young-people-just-worshipped-jesus-at-wembley-arena/19122.article)***.*** *The report – titled*The Quiet Revival*- shows that the most dramatic church growth is among young adults, particularly young men. In 2018, around four per cent of 18-24 year-olds said that they attended church at least monthly. Now this has gone up to 16 per cent, with young men increasing from 4 per cent to 21 per cent, and young women from 3 to 12 per cent……*

*After long decades of pessimism and predictions of terminal decline the report reflects and confirms what many in Christian communities across the UK have been observing – there has recently been a significant increase not only in the number of people going to church, but in those engaging with their Christian beliefs more intentionally and rationally……*

***For quite a while now the Catholic Church has spoken of a small faith community, but a more informed one. In fact the push towards converting ‘blind’ faith to ‘informed’ faith has been a central plank of much of the catechetical work done across the Church in recent decades, on the often-questionable assumption that attending Mass and participating in the sacraments out of family history, cultural practice, fear of damnation or mere habit was somehow insufficient or inadequate. Whilst much was done to increase the engagement of the faithful with Catholic theology the reality was that, in an aggressively advancing secular society, it became quite enough for most parishes that people were just actually turning up at all……..***

*The numbers reported in ‘The Quiet Revival’ will not necessarily look like people queuing round the corner to get into local churches; but they may look a little like many churches having a few more congregants. I’ve noticed this in my own church when on Sunday mornings in recent months, I’ve looked around and wondered who these new people are that are joining us, and where they have come from…..*

*Over the past couple of years we at Theos have noticed*[*an openness to Christian ideas in the public square*](https://www.premierchristianity.com/columnists/the-bible-is-being-debated-on-the-worlds-biggest-stages-lets-pray-for-our-public-theologians/18978.article)*; a place that felt much more hostile to Christianity and religion in general in the early 2000s when atheism was presumed to be the default, and Richard Dawkins and friends were comparing religious belief to the smallpox…..’* (Joseph Kelly is a Catholic writer and public theologian)

**Jubilee Year 2025
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.

This **Tuesday 15th April** at **7.00pm** in **St Mary’s** we will have a **Holy Week Service of Sorrow** with **Mary Untier of Knots** to help us prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter.

Once again, the ecumenical **Easter Sunrise Service** will take place on Douglas beach, opposite the end of Broadway, gathering at **5.50am on Easter Sunday morning**. Broadway Baptist church has generously offered breakfast afterwards. All are welcome. *Fr John*

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2025**

**Tuesday 15th April: Holy Week Service of Sorrow with Mary** at **7.00pm** in **St Mary’s.**

**Maundy Thursday 17th April: Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper at St Mary’s at 7.00pm.** This will be followed by‘watching’ at the Altar of Repose concluding with **Night Prayer at 9.30pm.**

**Good Friday 18th April: There will be TWO celebrations of The Lord’s Passion: 12.00 noon at St Anthony’s and 3.00pm at St Mary’s.**

**Holy Saturday 19th April at 12 noon:** Traditional Blessing of Food Baskets for the Polish Communityat **St Mary’s.**

**Holy Saturday 19th April at 7.30pm: Easter Vigil** and **First Mass of Easter** at **St Mary’s.**

**Easter Sunday 20th April:** Masses as normal: **9.30am** at St Anthony’s; **11.00am** at St Mary’s.

**CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL**
Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights and mosquito nets. Please support the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal. You can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/myanmar-earthquake-appeal) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

**CAFOD Green Family Fast Day envelopes** at the back of church can also be re-purposed for this emergency collection. **Please clearly write on the envelope that you are giving to Myanmar.**

* A breakdown of **St Anthony’s SVP Finances** has been made available at the back of St Anthony’s Church.
* **Lenten Soup Lunches** will be served on Wednesdays during Lent from 12noon - 2pm until Wednesday 16 April at St Anthony’s Pastoral Centre. £8 or donation. Proceeds to Hospice. All welcome.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 12th April*****Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*** | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 13th April*****Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Fran Quayle, 1st anniversarySick Parishioners |
| **Monday 14th April** | 12.10pm  | St Mary’s | Terence & Alice O’Neill, deceased  |
| **Tuesday 15th April** | *10.00am*12.10pm***7.00pm*** | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s**St Mary’s** | *Eucharistic Service*Tom Dowling, R. I.P.***Service of Sorrow with Mary Untier of Knots*** |
| **Wednesday 16th April**St Bernadette | 12.10pm***7.00pm*** | St Mary’s***St Anthony’s*** | Carmel McHale, R. I. P.***Stations of the Cross*** |
| **Thursday 17th April** **HOLY THURSDAY** | **7.00pm** | **St Mary’s** | **Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper** Deceased Family Mbrs & Parishioners |
| **Friday 18th April** **GOOD FRIDAY** | **12.00 noon****3.00pm** | **St Anthony’s****St Mary’s** | **Celebration of the Lord’s Passion****Celebration of the Lord’s Passion** |
| **Saturday 19th April** **HOLY SATURDAY** **Easter Vigil with First Mass of Easter** | 11.00am to 12 noon12.00noon***7.30pm*** | St Mary’sSt Mary’s***St Mary’s*** | Confessions *(No Exposition)*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 |

‘When Jesus gazes within us and loves us, what does he see despite our distractions and sins? Jesus sees our fragility, as well as our desire to be loved just as we are. *(Pope Francis)*