**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **3rd Sunday of Easter, 4th May 2025**

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

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass) (Mass Readings: Page 851)*

Dear Parishioners,

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinal gave this homily at the Requiem Mass of Pope Francis:

*In this majestic Saint Peter's Square, where Pope Francis celebrated the Eucharist so many times and presided over great gatherings over the past twelve years, we are gathered with sad hearts in prayer around his mortal remains…. Yet, we are sustained by the certainty of faith, which assures us that human existence does not end in the tomb, but in the Father's house, in a life of happiness that will know no end.*

*On behalf of the College of Cardinals, I cordially thank all of you for your presence. With deep emotion, I extend respectful greetings and heartfelt thanks to the Heads of State, Heads of Government and Official Delegations who have come from many countries to express their affection, veneration and esteem for our late Holy Father.*

*The outpouring of affection that we have witnessed in recent days following his passing from this earth into eternity tells us how much the profound pontificate of Pope Francis touched minds and hearts. The final image we have of him is that of last Sunday, Easter Sunday, when Pope Francis, despite his serious health problems, wanted to give us his blessing from the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica…. With our prayers, we now entrust the soul of our beloved Pontiff to God, that he may grant him eternal happiness in the bright and glorious gaze of his immense love…..*

*Despite his frailty and suffering towards the end, Pope Francis chose to follow this path of self-giving until the last day of his earthly life. He followed in the footsteps of his Lord, the Good Shepherd, who loved his sheep to the point of giving his life for them. And he did so with strength and serenity, close to his flock, the Church of God, mindful of the words of Jesus quoted by the Apostle Paul: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) ….*

*The decision to take the name Francis immediately appeared to indicate the pastoral plan and style on which he wanted to base his pontificate, seeking inspiration from the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi. He maintained his temperament and form of pastoral leadership, and through his resolute personality, immediately made his mark on the governance of the Church. He established direct contact with individuals and peoples, eager to be close to everyone, with a marked attention to those in difficulty, giving himself without measure, especially to the marginalised, the least among us. He was a Pope among the people, with an open heart towards everyone. He was also a Pope attentive to the signs of the times and what the Holy Spirit was awakening in the Church……*

*He had great spontaneity and an informal way of addressing everyone, even those far from the Church….. The guiding thread of his mission was also the conviction that the Church is a home for all, a home with its doors always open. He often used the image of the Church as a "field hospital" after a battle in which many were wounded; a Church determined to take care of the problems of people and the great anxieties that tear the contemporary world apart; a Church capable of bending down to every person, regardless of their beliefs or condition, and healing their wounds.*

*His gestures and exhortations in favour of refugees and displaced persons are countless. His insistence on working on behalf of the poor was constant. It is significant that Pope Francis' first journey was to Lampedusa, an island that symbolises the tragedy of emigration, with thousands of people drowning at sea…. Of his 47 arduous Apostolic Journeys, the one to Iraq in 2021, defying every risk, will remain particularly memorable…..*

*Pope Francis always placed the Gospel of mercy at the centre, repeatedly emphasising that God never tires of forgiving us. He always forgives, whatever the situation might be of the person who asks for forgiveness and returns to the right path. He called for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in order to highlight that mercy is "the heart of the Gospel. “Mercy and the joy of the Gospel are two key words for Pope Francis…..*

*Addressing men and women throughout the world, in his Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' he drew attention to our duties and shared responsibility for our common home, stating, "No one is saved alone."*

*Faced with the raging wars of recent years, with their inhuman horrors and countless deaths and destruction, Pope Francis incessantly raised his voice imploring peace and calling for reason and honest negotiation to find possible solutions. War, he said, results in the death of people and the destruction of homes, hospitals and schools. War always leaves the world worse than it was before: it is always a painful and tragic defeat for everyone……*

*Pope Francis used to conclude his speeches and meetings by saying, "Do not forget to pray for me." Dear Pope Francis, we now ask you to pray for us. May you bless the Church, bless Rome, and bless the whole world from heaven as you did last Sunday from the balcony of this Basilica in a final embrace with all the people of God, but also embrace humanity that seeks the truth with a sincere heart and holds high the torch of hope.* (Vatican Media)

Thank you to all those who helped to make **Archbishop Malcolm’s final pastoral visit** to the island memorable for him. As always he was grateful for your welcome and support throughout the years.

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A date for your diaries: Our new **Archbishop John Sherrington** is being installed at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at 12 noon on Tuesday 27th May. He will be installed into his seat in our Co Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle at a special service at **2.00pm on Tuesday 10th June** to suit the new archbishop’s diary. We understand that not everyone will be able to attend due to work commitments. Catholics from across the Island are invited. The Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer will be joined by Isle of Man Government dignitaries and civic leaders along with ecumenical guests from the Island’s Christian churches. The ceremony will be followed by a reception. For catering purposes, it is essential that you let us know if you are coming by emailing the parish office by 31 May 2025. We will be charged per head, so exact numbers are required.

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**General Risk & Fire Risk Assessments:** Following periodic assessments carried out by the Archdiocese in 2024, a few minor upgrades have been implemented to comply with current regulations. You will see new signs in St Mary’s pointing to the various fire exits. *Fr John*

* **Prayer Cards on the death of Pope Francis** are available at the back of church. Please take one.
* The **T & Chat Group** will meet on **Tuesday 6 May** from **10.30am to 12 noon** at **St. Anthony’s Pastoral Centre**. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served and everyone will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Josie on 406063.
* **St Anthony’s Charity Bingo** will be held on **Thursday 8 May** at **7.30pm** in Pastoral Centre. Everyone welcome.
* **Island Spirituality Network:** On **Saturday 10 May** from **10am – 1pm** at **St**. **John’s Mill**. Guest speaker will be Revd Dr DeeDee Haines. Her theme will be “*Where* *the Rubber Meets the Road: Spiritual Identity at End of Life*”. DeeDee serves as Bereavement Coordinator & Supervisor of Spiritual Care in Eden Hospice, Minneapolis.
* **St Anthony’s Gardening Volunteers** will resume annual grounds maintenance for a couple of hours on **Saturday 10 May** at **9.30am** and every fortnight thereafter. Please turn up on the day and bring your own tools. Refreshments provided. Thank you.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 3rd May**3rd Sunday of Easter | ***10.30am****No Exposition or Confessions today*5.00pm | ***St Mary’s***St Mary’s | ***First Holy Communion Celebration for children of St Mary’s School***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 |
| **Monday 5th May** | *No Mass or Service* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 6th May** | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Ken Daly, 6th anniversary |
| **Wednesday 7th May** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Ben Doyle, anniversary |
| **Thursday 8th May** | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Monica Bersin, anniversaryMary Cocker, anniversary |
| **Friday 9th May** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Stephanie Newson intentions |
| **Saturday 10th May***Day of Prayer for Vocations* 4th Sunday of Easter | *10.00am to 11.00am**(****note earlier time****)*5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions *(****note earlier time****)*Una Kelly, 1st anniversary |
| **Sunday 11th May***Day of Prayer for Vocations*4th Sunday of Easter | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Peter & Mary Clarke & familyPeople of our Parishes |

We remember in our prayers our parishioners **Bernard Simpson, Elaine Barker** and **Bernadette Corris** who died recently. May they rest in peace. We think of their families and friends who mourn their loss.