[A logo with a group of people and a cross

Description automatically generated](https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/pastoral-development/jubilee)**NEWSLETTER**

**Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas   
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**4th Sunday of Easter, 11th May 2025**

**Day of Prayer for Vocations**

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

*(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass) (Mass Readings: Page 856)*

Dear Parishioners,

The two flags outside St Mary’s church, lowered to mark the death of **Pope Francis**, remain at half-mast as **we mourn the loss of Fr Brian Dougherty**. Last Monday we heard the sad news that Father Brian had died after a peaceful night in the Isle of Man Hospice. His slowly deteriorating health had taken a serious turn for the worse on the previous Thursday and he was admitted to Nobles hospital. Some weeks earlier he had left the family home and taken up residence in the Salisbury Street Nursing Home. No longer burdened with looking after himself, he flourished as their number one celebrity resident. He relished the provision of meals around the clock and welcomed a daily stream of visitors. We offer our condolences to his son Paul and his daughter-in-law Brenda as well as to his many friends on the Island.

Father Brian was a parishioner before he became a priest. And it is as a priest-parishioner that he holds a unique place in the hearts of the Catholic community on the Island.

Brian Dougherty was born on 17th October 1935, the only child of Mona and Bertie Dougherty. He was brought to Saint Mary’s to be baptised on 11th November that same year. He attended St Mary’s school and Ballakermeen High School before serving his time as a bricklayer in the construction industry. In his early twenties he applied to train for the priesthood to both the Archdiocese and to the de Montfort Fathers. They both told him he was ‘too old’. Initially working part time in British Telecom (later Manx Telecom), he went on to work full time in a senior role with them for 37 years. One parishioner recounted how helpful Brian always was (with his hat, pipe and heavy black-rimmed glasses) in facilitating long-distance calls to Ireland. Ironically, Fr Brian had little patience with current telecommunications technology, progressing no further than his trusty push-button ‘brick’ Nokia phone. On arrival in Salisbury Street, he acquired a tablet and with the help of staff was able to access live-streaming from St Mary’s for the first time. He was amazed that the Holy Week Services were accessible ‘in colour’.

Heavily involved in parish activities, it was membership of the Legion of Mary that led to his first meeting with his future wife Pearl during the TT races in 1957. With other members of the Legion of Mary from Ireland, she attended a meeting of the Legion at St Mary’s. Arriving late, she was reprimanded by Brian. He told her she was welcome, but that courtesy required her to be on time; not an auspicious start to their relationship. The next time she met Brian, Pearl asked ‘are we still friends?’ Apparently so, because they became engaged a couple of months later and eventually married on the 4th April 1959. They had two sons: Eamonn and Paul. There followed almost 35 years of married life, cut short by Pearl’s unexpected death in 1992. Eamonn died suddenly in December 2020.

In 1993 Brian began a three-year training programme for the permanent diaconate. Ordained deacon in 1996, he served four years as a deacon. A surprise phone call from Archbishop’s House in Liverpool led to a meeting with Archbishop Kelly. Decades after being told he was ‘too old’ the Archbishop invited him to undergo four years further training for the priesthood. Unlike other candidates for the priesthood, whatever their age, Fr Brian was not required to attend seminary. His training was undertaken ‘on the job’. The Archbishop, a former seminary rector, designed a tailor-made programme to be delivered by the then parish priest Canon Brendan Alger, himself a former seminary professor. And so came the special day. Father Brian was ordained priest by Archbishop Patrick Kelly at Saint Mary of the Isle Douglas on 12th July 1999. He celebrated his First Mass the following day at Sacred Heart, Pulrose. There followed many happy years as an assistant priest in the parishes of Sacred Heart, St Anthony’s Onchan, St Joseph’s Willaston and St Mary of the Isle, Douglas. He loved being a priest and our parishes were blessed by his presence. **Fr Brian’s Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams at 12 noon in St Mary’s on Thursday 15th May followed by burial in Braddan Cemetery, where he will be reunited with his wife Pearl. May he rest in peace.**

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**Pope Leo XIV.** We have a new Pope. For the first time we have a pope who is younger than I am 😊. Many people have asked if I knew him in Peru. He was a young priest in the north of Peru during my time there. If I met him, I don’t remember and I had already left Peru when he returned later as the Bishop of Chiclayo. Who would have imagined the Holy Spirit’s response to President Trump’s appointment was to have the cardinals choose another North American with a totally different outlook? Pope Leo XIV has a reputation as a bridge builder, a gift much needed in today’s confrontational world. Pope Leo XIII published the encyclical letter ***Rerum Novarum*** in 1891. It was very much influenced by Cardinal Manning, the Archbishop of Westminster. The UK, the home of the Industrial Revolution, was the first to experience exploitation of workers – now no more than cogs in a machine. The encyclical championed worker’s rights and supported the emergence of trades unions. It has been said that as Pope Francis was the People’s Pope; our new Pope Leo XIV, in his choice of name, is set to be the Workers’ Pope.

**Archbishop Malcolm has issued the following statement:***Dear brothers and sisters, it is with a profound sense of joy and thanksgiving to God that we welcome the news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, the 267th successor of St Peter. The Cardinal Electors, inspired by the Holy Spirit, have chosen a gifted and prayerful pastor to walk in the shoes of the fisherman to be a focus of unity for the Church. After the late Pope Francis calling the Church to be missionary disciples and proclaim the joy of the Gospel, we as the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Liverpool pledge our closeness in prayer and our support to our Holy Father the Pope. I invite all the faithful of the archdiocese, and men and women of goodwill to pray with me at this time.***Archbishop elect- Sherrington added:** *I unite my prayer with Archbishop Malcolm and the people and clergy of the Archdiocese of Liverpool for Pope Leo XIV as the successor of St Peter and the shepherd of the Universal Church. We rejoice in his election!*

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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. *Fr John*

* **Columba Club Quiz Night:** The event on 26 April was very successful and raised £780 of which £400 was generously donated by the Club to The Lourdes Youth Fund. Big thanks to parishioners who supported the event and donated cash and raffle prizes. The next Columba Club event will be a cheese & wine/movie evening on Saturday 14 June. The film Conclave will be shown. 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 10th May**  4th Sunday of Easter  *Day of Prayer for Vocations* | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | Una Kelly, 1st anniversary |
| **Sunday 11th May**  *Day of Prayer for Vocations*  4th Sunday of Easter | 9.30am  11.00am | St Anthony’s  St Mary’s | Peter & Mary Clarke & family  People of our Parishes |
| **Monday 12th May** | *No Mass or Service* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 13th May**  Dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool | *10.00am*  ***12.00 noon*** | *St Anthony’s*  ***St Mary’s*** | *Eucharistic Service*  ***Requiem Mass: Bernadette Corris*** |
| **Wednesday 14th May**  St Matthias | ***10.00am***  12.10pm | ***St Anthony’s***  St Mary’s | ***Funeral Service: Bernard Simpson***  John & Alice Cullen, anniversary |
| **Thursday 15th May**  Our Lady of Fatima | *No Mass or Service*  ***12.00 noon*** | *St Anthony’s*  ***St Mary’s*** | *No Mass or Service today*  ***Requiem Mass: Fr Brian Dougherty*** |
| **Friday 16th May** | ***10.00am***  12.10pm | ***St Mary’s***  St Mary’s | ***Funeral Service: Louise Heaney***  John & Helen Cowburn-Wood, anniv |
| **Saturday 17th May**  5th Sunday of Easter | 11.00am to 12noon  5.00pm | St Mary’s  St Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions  Frances McCarrick intentions |
| **Sunday 18th May**  5th Sunday of Easter | 9.30am  11.00am | St Anthony’s  St Mary’s | Sonja Lees, recently died  People of our Parishes |