

NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Joseph, Willaston; St Mary of the Isle, Douglas

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24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A for Sundays) (Cycle II for weekdays)

13th September 2020 **Education Sunday**

Dear Parishioners

This week Pope Francis spoke about the Coronavirus in a general audience:

'The crisis we are living due to the pandemic is affecting everyone; we will emerge from it for the better if we all seek the common good together...The Christian response to the pandemic and to the consequent socio-economic crisis is based on love, above all, love of God who always precedes us (see 1 Jn 4:19). He loves us first, He always precedes us in love and in solutions. He loves us unconditionally and when we welcome this divine love, then we can respond similarly. I love not only those who love me – my family, my friends, my group – but I also love those who do not love me, I also love those who do not know me or who are strangers, and even those who make me suffer or whom I consider enemies (see Mt 5:44). This is Christian wisdom, this is how Jesus acted.....

'So, love is not limited to the relationship between two or three people, or to friends or to family, it goes beyond. It comprises civil and political relationships (see Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], 1907-1912), including a relationship with nature (see Encyclical Laudato Si', LS 231). Love is inclusive, everything.....

'A virus that does not recognize barriers, borders, or cultural or political distinctions must be faced with a love without barriers, borders, or distinctions. This love can generate social structures that encourage us to share rather than to compete, which allow us to include the most vulnerable and not to cast them aside, which help us to express the best in our human nature and not the worst.

It is therefore time to improve our social love – I want to highlight this: our social love – with everyone's contribution, starting from our littleness. The common good requires everyone's participation. If everyone contributes his or her part, and if no one is left out, we can regenerate good relationships on the communitarian, national, and international levels and even in harmony with the environment (see LS 236). Thus, through our gestures, even the most humble ones, something of the image of God we bear within us will be made visible, because God is the Trinity, God is love, God is love. This is the most beautiful definition of God that is in the Bible. The Apostle John, who loved Jesus so much, gives it to us. With His help, we can heal the world working, yes, all together for the common good, for everyone's common good. Thank you.

And some of the Pope's tweets on the Pandemic:

'Today in the tragedy of a pandemic, in the face of the many false securities that have now crumbled, in the face of so many hopes betrayed, in the sense of abandonment that weighs upon hearts, Jesus says to each one of us :''Courage, open your heart to my love''.'

'The current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all linked to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together, all of us, in solidarity'.

I am taking a break over the next two weeks. I am grateful that Masses will be celebrated by Fr Joseph Kiganda and Fr Mike Thompson in my absence. The Parish Office will function as usual.

Normally I spend my summer holidays touring mainland Europe on my bike. In recent years I've turned to Scotland and Ireland. This year, because of travel restrictions, I am looking forward to a delayed staycation on the Island. I'll enjoy a break from routine without having to constantly look at my diary. For my holiday reading I hope to finish Hilary Mantel's historical novel *'The Mirror and the Light'*. I thought I'd have it finished during the lockdown but am still only halfway through. It is the third and final part of a trilogy telling the story of the English Reformation through the eyes of Thomas Cromwell, one of those we Catholics see as the bad guys. The following passage describes the character of the worldly-wise Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Henry VIII's one-time Chancellor:

'The Cardinal in his days as master of the realm, had spoken of God as if he were a distant policy advisor from whom he heard quarterly; gnomonic in his pronouncements, sometimes forgetful, but worth a retainer on account of his experience. At times he sent him special requests, which the less well-connected call prayers; and always, until the last months of his life, God fell over himself to make sure Tom Wolsey had what he wanted. But then he prayed 'make me humble'; God said, 'Sir, your request comes too late'. Fr John

Live Streamed Masses and Services for the next two weeks

Saturday 12th September 24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	People of our Parishes
Sunday 13th September 24 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Education Day</i>	9.30am St Anthony's <i>Public Mass (not online)</i> 11.00am St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Leonard Neale, anniversary Thara Joseph, deceased
Monday 14th September Exaltation of the Holy Cross	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Eddie & Theresa Kelly, deceased
Tuesday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Timothy McCarthy, deceased
Wednesday 16th September Saints Cornelius and Cyprian	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Danilo Morante , recently died
Thursday 17th September St Robert Bellarmine	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Adria Solignani, recently died
Friday 18th September	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Concordia Vargas, recently died
Saturday 19th September 25 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Sean Murnane, anniversary
Sunday 20th September 25 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Home Mission Sunday</i>	9.30am St Anthony's <i>Public Mass (not online)</i> 11.00am St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	People of our Parishes James Stack, anniversary
Monday 21st September St Matthew	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Washington Sia, recently died
Tuesday 22nd September	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Michael Gaffney, recently died
Wednesday 23rd September St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Catherine McKinney, recently died
Thursday 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Fr John's intentions
Friday 25th September St Finbar	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Maurice Hayes, sick
Saturday 26th September 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Selvaraj Joseph, deceased
Sunday 27th September 26 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for Harvest and Fruits of Human Work</i>	9.30am St Anthony's <i>Public Mass (not online)</i> 11.00am St Mary's <i>Public Mass</i>	Anthony & Niall O'Grady, deceased People of our Parishes

- Please remember **Kevin Quayle, Catherine McKinney, Washington Sia** and **Michael Gaffney** who died this week. We pray for members of their grieving families who live in our parishes.

Covid-19 Restrictions: A meeting with health professionals from the parish considered the easing of Covid related restrictions in our churches to better reflect the current situation on the Island. It was agreed to recommend to the Archdiocese that we:

- continue to sanitise our hands on **entering** and **leaving** the church
- remove barrier tapes on alternate benches in St Mary's
- maintain social distancing
- restore distribution of Holy Communion to the normal place in the Mass;
- Holy Communion will only be given in the hand.
- parishioners in the front rows will be directed to approach Holy Communion first by volunteer stewards. They are then to return to their places.
- At the end of Mass those sitting in the back rows are to leave first immediately at the end of Mass in order to avoid congestion at the rear of the church.

The Island's first Covid case in over 100 days coupled with the escalation of cases in the UK and Ireland suggests that further relaxation of restrictions be delayed for the time being. Sunday obligation is still suspended. To reduce pressure on numbers attending, please consider making a weekday Mass your 'Sunday Mass'.