

NEWSLETTER

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

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29th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A for Sundays) (Cycle II for weekdays)

18th October 2020 **World Mission Day**

Dear Parishioners

There can be no doubt about the severity of the Coronavirus pandemic. The situation in the UK and Ireland is critical. Our confidence in the Covid free status of the Island has been shaken as cracks begin to appear in the immunity of the Island to infection. It's an anxious time for many on the Island, made worse by separation. We pray that our loved ones across are protected and stay healthy.

Even though life on the Island is as near normal as can be, Covid has interrupted many aspects of our lives. There's a temptation to remember the Covid free days of the past and to look forward to the end of the crisis next year. This means that we write off the present moment. But the past is just a memory and the future does not yet exist. The only reality is the present moment. We can't just wish it away. How do we live life to the full in the here and now? I'm inspired by the two St Teresas both of whose feasts we have celebrated recently. Both were enclosed Carmelite nuns. One lived in 19th century France; the other in 16th century Spain. Their wisdom suggests how we can live fully in the present rather than merely surviving. Teresa of Lisieux saw holiness as *doing small things with great love*. She writes: *'I only look at the present'*. Teresa of Avila tells us: *'Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes.'* These are simple recipes for contentment in difficult times.

- Among the casualties of the pandemic has been **Synod 2020**. Today we celebrate the third Synod Sunday in the Archdiocese. Originally this was to have been the weekend of our Synod 2020 event but COVID-19 has pushed this back to June 2021. The summary of proposals and affirmations have today been published on the Synod Website. Over the coming weeks our local Synod Members will be inviting your responses to these proposals as we continue to discern the Church God is calling us to be. Please visit the website, read the summary proposals and prayerfully reflect on them. www.synod2020.co.uk/proposals. Archbishop Malcolm has written a pastoral letter for this Synod weekend which can be read on the Synod website. There are also four leaflets containing the summaries for each Theme and a short film which can all be found at www.synod2020.co.uk.
- **First Holy Communion preparation** has also been disrupted. This year some parents have chosen to postpone their children's reception of the sacrament until 2021. Others have taken advantage of live streaming facilities at St Mary's to celebrated their child's First Holy Communion informally on successive Saturday evenings at 5.00pm.
- In discussion with Mrs Donna Martin, headteacher at St Mary's Primary School, **it has been decided to integrate First Holy Communion preparation into the school RE curriculum. Preparation will continue to be done in partnership with parents but for those attending St Mary's Primary School, parents and children will no longer be required to attend evening sessions in the winter months.** This is a return to the traditional practice which was in existence for many years.
- Children who attend other primary schools will still be required to attend evening sessions with their parents. These will be based at **St Anthony's Onchan**. Dates and times will be publicised in due course.
- As always, I would like to thank our volunteer catechists both at St Mary's and St Anthony's who have selflessly given so much of their time in recent years.
- Requests for tickets to **Fr Brian's presentation events** have been overwhelming. There is limited capacity in the Barrool Suite and both the afternoon and evening events are now full. Those who have applied by email will receive an acknowledgement by email in the next few days. Everyone who has already requested tickets by phone or by email has been placed on a list. Tickets will be available for distribution from next weekend.

Fr John

- The funeral of **Deacon Eric Moore** will take place in Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Maughold Church, Ramsey next Wednesday 21st October at 11am.
- **Quiz Night** in aid of **KSC Charities** will be held in the Columba Club next Saturday 24th October 2020 at 8pm. Tickets £7 to include Supper are available from Dave Corkill on 413631. Everyone welcome.
- **The Annual Fairtrade Sale** will be held on 29th, 30th and 31st October 2020 at Cooil Methodist Chapel Hall from 10am to 6.30pm. Christmas cards, food and crafts will be on sale bringing satisfying employment, dignity, fair wages and a better way of life for men and women in some of the world's poorest countries. Simple lunches will be served each day from 12 to 2pm. Proceeds in aid of Third World Charities *DO! Developing Orphans, Traidcraft Exchange* and the *Burundi Bees Project (Christian Aid)*. Further details from Margaret Newton, 628995 or 436182.

- **KSC Halloween Coffee Morning** will take place in the Columba Club on Saturday 31st October 2020 from 10.30am until 12 noon. There will be a cake stall and raffle. Prizes for best lantern, fancy dress and witches' hat. Entrance £1. For further details please contact Ivan on 474204. Everyone welcome.
- **Memory Support Group:** Meetings will resume on **3rd November 2020** from **10.30am until 12.00 noon in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre** and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month. Previous attendees together with their families, as well as new members, will be warmly welcomed. Mike Corkhill will provide musical entertainment. Tea and coffee will be served. For more details please contact Josie, 406063, or Amanda, 642879.

Masses and Services for the coming week

Saturday 17th October 29 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's Livestream	Jim Kneen, birthday anniversary
Sunday 18th October 29 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>World Mission Day</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
Monday 19th October John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues & Companion	11.00am	St Mary's Livestream	Mike Joe Hennessy, anniversary
Tuesday 20th October	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Joan Corran, 4 th anniversary
Wednesday 21st October	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	John O'Shea, recently died
Thursday 22nd October St John Paul II	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Brid McGovern, birthday
Friday 23rd October	10.00am	St Anthony's	Deliverance from the pandemic
Saturday 24th October	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Mary Carter, 1 st anniversary
Sunday 25th October 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Luke Mannion
Sunday 26th October 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions & Exposition
Sunday 27th October 31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's Livestream	Sarah, Michael & Colm Garrity
Sunday 28th October 1 st Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
	11.00am	St Mary's Livestream	Deacon Eric Moore, recently died

As we gradually relax restrictions to protect ourselves from coronavirus infection, the spread of the virus in the rest of the Archdiocese grows at an alarming rate.

We are really grateful to our stewards who have given so much of their time throughout the crisis. As we gradually return to normality, we must be ready to perform U-turns. With their experience of monitoring social distancing and sanitising surfaces, they are prepared should the situation deteriorate.

Some dismiss our vigilance as unnecessary. Younger and more robust members of our community may opt for a casual approach to protective measures. For the sake of our vulnerable parishioners, we unapologetically err on the side of caution. **Please, continue to sanitise your hands on arrival and on leaving our churches and maintain reasonable social distancing.** Thank you.

'When we agree to live simply, we put ourselves outside of others' ability to buy us off, reward us falsely, or control us by money, status, salary, punishment, and loss or gain of anything.... Francis and Clare created a life in which they had little to lose, no desire for gain, no loans or debts to pay off and no luxuries that they needed or wanted.'

'When we agree to live simply, we have little to protect and no desire for acquisition, even for acquisition of any "moral capital." When we imagine that we are better, holier, higher, more important to God than others, it is a very short step to "justified" arrogance or violence toward those others.'

'When we agree to live simply we can understand what Francis meant when he said that "a man had not yet given up everything for God as long as he held on to the moneybag of his own opinions." Most of us find out that this purse is far more dangerous and disguised than any wallet and we seldom let go of it.'

'When we agree to live simply, we no longer consider immigrants, refugees, people in poverty, or anyone else on the margins of society as a threat. When we choose to relinquish our privileges, whatever they are, we have freely and consciously chosen to become "visitors and pilgrims" in this world, as Francis puts it (quoting 1 Peter 2:11). A simple lifestyle is quite simply an act of solidarity with the way most people have had to live since the beginnings of humanity.'

(Fr Richard Rohr on the example of Saint Francis of Assisi)