

NEWSLETTER

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

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30th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A for Sundays) (Cycle II for weekdays)

25th October 2020

Dear Parishioners

October is the month of the Rosary. Like most Catholics of a certain age I was brought up on the Rosary. We used to say it each night at home – I was grateful that it was only usually one decade. My grandmother seemed to say the rosary all the time. In the seminary we publicly recited the rosary each day.

Prior to Vatican II the Mass was in Latin and there was no opportunity for the congregation to participate. The Eucharistic Prayer was said by the priest in silence. Many Catholics said the Rosary during these quiet times in the Mass. On Sunday afternoon there was Rosary, Sermon and Benediction, a practice that did not survive the introduction of Sunday evening Mass. In my younger years I found the Rosary repetitive. I couldn't work out how to think of the mysteries and say the words of Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father at the same time. And I was critical of those who appeared to mindlessly rattle through these prayers. In later years I have come to appreciate this repetition of the familiar prayers as a mantra. Our lips move, our fingers feel the beads and this somehow allows the sacred mysteries of our faith to seep into our hearts at a much deeper level. Some of the holiest people I have ever known have lived the rosary. One elderly Irish priest used to measure everything in terms of the rosary, both distance and time: 'It's only three decades each morning to the newsagents' and 'I can cut the lawn in fifteen decades.' Belfast priest Fr Eugene O'Neill recently put it another way: 'saying the Rosary allows us to park our ego for a while'.

Those driving past Woodbourne Road over the last few years will have noticed major building works at **St Mary's Catholic Primary School**. More classrooms have been created and the Sports and Assembly Hall has been doubled in size. The interior has been totally refurbished with new furniture and fittings. The transformation of the building, both inside and out, is a tribute to the vision of our new headteacher Mrs Donna Martin, the school governors and the Manx Government.

Our children are our future and deserve the very best we can give them. St Mary's is a Catholic school. It is an extension of our parishes. Mrs Martin and her staff, the school Governors and I wish to ensure that our Catholic parishes take pride in their school and wish to encourage a genuine **school-parish partnership**. A Catholic school is not merely one which provides RE classes. All schools on the island are required to do this. A Catholic school is also a place where we are comfortable with the traditions of our Faith. A Catholic school is one where **Gospel values** permeate every area of activity – the pursuit of excellence in the classroom, the dining hall, the playing fields etc. A Catholic school is one where every child matters, where all parents are respected and where every child is taught, by word and example, to treat other children with kindness and respect. You can sense these values as soon as you walk through the door of our 'new' school.

We are holding a special OPEN DAY at the school on the afternoon of **Sunday 22nd November starting at 2.00pm**. This is for *ALL* interested parishioners, not just parents and grandparents. Come along and see for yourself what a transformation has taken place in *our* school. After brief words of introduction from Mrs Martin and from me, tea (and cake!!!) will be served and you will be free to see around this beautiful building. All are welcome.

- We are looking forward to **Father Brian's Presentation Events this Wednesday 28th October**. Both the afternoon and evening events are full. Those who have been advised that their tickets are available may now collect these at the back of church, if you attend any of this weekend's Masses. Alternatively tickets may be collected by arrangement from the parish office on Monday or Tuesday. Admission to the Legislative Building on Finch Road is by individually named and numbered tickets only. These are not transferrable. Those genuinely unable to pick up their tickets in advance can collect them at the door on Wednesday. If you find you are now unable to attend please let us know so that your place can be taken by someone on the waiting list. Thank you.

I hope you remember to put your clocks back tonight (Saturday). It's winter already! *Fr John*

- **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.
- A similar range of **Fairtrade goods will be on sale in St Columba's Church Hall on Sunday 8th November** after the 11.00am Mass until 4.30pm. Homemade soup and roll lunches will be available. All proceeds from refreshments will go to Loreto Sisters Albania Appeal. Further details from Stella Harris on 834159.

- **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.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for St Anthony's will be emptied over the next 2 weeks. Please leave your box in St Anthony's church porch in the usual place. This notice is only for St Anthony's red box holders.
- A **Festival of Light** is taking place in Christ Church, Laxey at 12noon to 4 pm daily from Monday 26th to Saturday 31st October. Everyone welcome to 'come and see'.
- **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 24th October 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Sarah, Michael and Colm Garrity
Sunday 25th October 30 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am St Anthony's 11.00am St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	People of our Parishes Deacon Eric Moore, recently died
Monday 26th October Ss Chad and Cedd	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Jim McGowan and all deceased members of the McGowan family
Tuesday 27th October	10.00am St Anthony's 12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Hugh Duffy Declan Conroy, recently died
Wednesday 28th October Ss Simon and Jude	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Evelyn Denver, 4 th anniversary
Thursday 29th October	12.10 noon St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Iris and Frank Scott, anniversary
Friday 30th October	12.00 noon St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Requiem Mass: William Hughes
Saturday 31st October	11.00am to 12.00 noon St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
Saturday 31st October	5.00pm St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	May Molloy, month's mind
Sunday 1st November Solemnity of All Saints	9.30am St Anthony's 11.00am St Mary's <i>Livestream</i>	Peter and Sonja Lees and family People of our Parishes

We remember parishioners **Dorothy Karran, William Hughes** and **James Burton** who died this week. We pray for their grieving families and friends.

Holding and Letting Go

We have a call to live, and oh
A common call to die.
I watched you and my father go
To bid a friend goodbye.
I watched you hold my father's hand,
How could it not be so?
The gentleness of holding on
Helps in the letting go.

For when we feel our frailty
How can we not respond?
And reach to hold another's hand
And feel the common bond?
For then we touch the heights above
And every depth below,
We touch the very quick of love;
Holding and letting go.

(Malcolm Guite from *The Singing Bowl*)