

# NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email [saintmaryiom@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaolp.co.uk) Website [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**      **17<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

(Year B for Sundays) (Cycle 1 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners,

As the UK prepares to host the Glasgow Cop 26 International Conference on Climate Change, I share this piece with you from Franciscan priest Fr Richard Rohr:

The spiritual nature of reality, and the material, the physical, have been one ever since the Big Bang. The incarnation did not just happen 2,000 years ago; rather, matter and spirit have been one since God decided to manifest himself.

Christ is everywhere. The entire planet is anointed and messianic, if you will. All bears the Christ mystery. The whole point of going to communion in church is to sacramentalize the universe. We're not only in communion when we go to communion. We're always in communion when we learn this. We're in communion driving to church. We're in communion walking up the steps of the church. We're in communion at the bathroom break. We're in communion when we're in nature.

Franciscan sister José Hobday (1929–2009) was a Seneca elder, an author and a storyteller. She writes of how she learned to “pray always” from the Native American spirituality of her mother, which honoured this sense of being in constant communion and harmony with God in all things.

‘My mother prayed as a Native American. That meant she saw living as praying, and praying as living. She tried to pray her life. She expressed her prayer of gratitude, for example, in the way she did things. She told me many times, “When you stir oatmeal, stir it slowly so you don’t forget that oatmeal is a gift and that you don’t take it for granted.” She made a prayer out of the way she stirred oatmeal. Doing things prayerfully. That reflected her approach to prayer. She always did that. She even did it in the way she walked. She taught me and my brothers to walk with our hearts high and to walk softly on the earth because the earth is our mother. . . . As we walked, she said, we should be ready to enter into every movement of beauty we encountered. . . .

‘So, what things have I learned from Native American spirituality? First, to make my prayer creation-centred. Indians pray as relatives of the earth. They consider the sky their father, the earth their mother. The sun can be a brother or a sister. This makes you a creature with a relationship to creation, not someone above it or better than it. . . . In our prayer, we might very well reflect on . . . creatures, and their relationship with creation. That is what Native Americans have done. It has not only kept them in touch with creation, but with the Creator as well.’

\*\*\*\*\*

Today, Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> October we look forward to welcoming **the Right Revd Peter Eagles, Bishop of Sodor and Man. He will preside and preach at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of our Novena to Mary Untier of Knots at 3.00pm at St Anthony’s Onchan.** During the service he will also dedicate a new statue of Our Lady of Walsingham. It is a tribute to good ecumenical relations on the Island that Bishop Peter is a welcome visitor to our churches. We are part of the Archdiocese of Liverpool but on the Island, we also claim Bishop Peter as ‘our’ bishop, too. We recognise him as a Manx spiritual leader and also value his role as a member of the Legislative Council at Tynwald where he gives a voice to all the churches on the Island.

## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Saint Mary’s at **5.00pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022.** Parents are requested to **contact the parish office, preferably by email,** if they wish their children to be confirmed. Those eligible to be confirmed must be in **YEAR 8 or above.** There will be a programme of preparation those seeking the sacrament during November. This will involve attendance at a small number of ‘live’ sessions combined with online preparation. **Any Adults who haven’t been confirmed, and have not already been in touch with us, are also invited to contact the parish office.** There will be a separate programme of preparation for them.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Children attending St Mary’s Catholic Primary School are being prepared for First Holy Communion as part of the school’s RE curriculum. Parents of **Year 4 children attending other non-Catholic schools who wish to make their First Holy Communion in 2022 are required to register their names by email with the parish office [saintmaryiom@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaolp.co.uk).** Six sessions of preparation are required. They will be invited to attend evening classes at St Anthony’s, Onchan. Three sessions will take place before Easter and three after Easter.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Some weeks ago I shared my intention to form a Parish Council. I spoke of how parish life can be summarised under the three headings of Priest, Prophet and King – Worship, Formation and Service. As a first step I will be inviting twelve individuals from among those actively involved in serving the parishes under these headings to form a steering group.

**COVID:** At the time of writing, I note that there have been **two more recorded Covid related deaths** with **six patients in Nobles Hospital** and a total of **569 known cases** on the Island. This inevitably raises the risk of infection among those attending Mass. Our volunteer stewards will be wearing masks as they encourage us to follow NHS advice in **sanitizing our hands** when we enter and leave the church. You may wish to consider wearing masks yourselves both for your own health and to protect and reassure those attending Mass who are vulnerable. I take this opportunity to thank our stewards for their ongoing dedication and commitment to keep us all safe.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dates for the remaining days of our **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** in St Mary's are as follows:

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 7.00pm – Untying the Knots of Ill Health**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 7.00pm**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 7.00pm**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7.00pm**

- **IOM Foodbank - Message from Neal Mellon:** We had a wonderful response from parishioners who attended the 9.30am Mass last Sunday. Seven crates of food and non-food items plus £236.76 cash was donated. A lot of thought was put into the selection of food, bathroom and cleaning items. These will provide well balanced parcels for Foodbank users. Everything donated was taken to Ballafletcher House by Sunday noon. Thank you to Fr John and a BIG THANKS to all who supported this Harvest appeal which is much appreciated. If anyone would still like to make a donation, the Foodbank can be contacted on **646999, 311550** or by email [isleofmanfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:isleofmanfoodbank@gmail.com).
- There will be an **Evening of Food, Music & Dancing** from around the world in support of St Marcellin's, a Catholic orphanage in Zimbabwe on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 6:30pm** at the South Douglas Old Friends Hall, Finch Road, Douglas. Admission £12, under 12s free. Please contact Sheila on 475990 or Damian 475446 for tickets.
- The **Annual Fairtrade Sale** will take place in the **Cooill Chapel Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am - 6.30pm. Christmas cards, food and crafts will be on sale. These bring satisfying employment and dignity, fair wages and a better way of life for people in some of the world's poorest countries. Simple lunches served from 12 - 2pm in aid of Afghan Refugees and UNICEF Covid Appeal. Further information from Margie on 436182.

### Masses for the coming week

*All Masses from St Mary's are live-streamed*

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Joe Greene, birthday anniversary
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am <b>3.00pm</b>	St Anthony's St Mary's <b>St Anthony's</b>	Joan Corran, 5 <sup>th</sup> anniversary James Palmer, deceased <b>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots - Day 4</b>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b> St Luke	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Brian Cocker, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October</b> Ss John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Mary Carter, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Kevin Corkhill, recently died
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon <b>7.00pm</b>	St Anthony's St Mary's <b>St Mary's</b>	Rose Howard, 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday Betty Johnson, recently died <b>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots - Day 5</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b> St John Paul II	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Jim Kneen, birthday anniversary
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>World Mission Day</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Robert Lees, recently died Mike Joe Hennessy, anniversary

*This week Pope Francis opened the first stage of a two-year worldwide synod. He called on Catholics to emerge from their 'barricades of certainty' and to embrace 'the art of encounter'.*