

# NEWSLETTER

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

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**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**      **14<sup>th</sup> November 2021**  
**Remembrance Sunday**                      **World Day of the Poor**  
(Year B for Sundays) (Cycle 1 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners,

Every November there is a heightened awareness of **human suffering**. We think of those who have died; those who died in two world wars and other conflicts. This year, in addition to victims of Covid, there is an ever-growing list of our own parishioners who are sick and ask for prayers. We look on helplessly as we witness the plight of Iraqi refugees on the border between Belarus and Poland. The people of Afghanistan face a winter without food. The Tigrayan people of Ethiopia are being slaughtered. This former Buddhist nun's insight into suffering may be helpful:

*In the Buddha's most essential teaching of the Four Noble Truths, he shares his discovery that **suffering is a part of life, and there is no escape from it**. This is the first Noble Truth and acknowledging it can help us to suffer less. If we can accept where we are, and not judge the disruption in our life as wrong or bad, we can touch great freedom. This is because fighting what is, doesn't actually work. As the saying goes, "whatever we resist persists." . . . "A true practitioner isn't someone who doesn't suffer, but someone who knows how to handle their suffering." We could say that the measure of our accomplishment or success is not that our life has no ups and downs, but that we can surf the waves!*

*I began to see that along with all the suffering and pain, there are also many beings that are supporting others in the present moment. There are many hearts of compassion, opening to relieve suffering, to care for others, to teach, to show a different way. There are people who are courageous and standing up for what they believe is right, protecting our oceans, cleaning rivers and beaches, advocating for those who are oppressed. There are those in every corner of the planet who are quietly doing the things no one else wants to do: caring for the forgotten people, places, species, and doing what needs to be done.*

*When I focused on that other part of the larger picture, I was able to see that **suffering doesn't have to disappear in order for beauty to be there**. That life is about all of these things. . . . The reality is that there is great terror and pain, and there is great love and great wisdom. They're all here, coexisting in this moment. (Kaira Jewel Lingo).*

As Christians we don't pray to eliminate suffering but we turn in faith to the cross of Jesus. Catholicism is a sacramental religion. It doesn't offer easy answers. It doesn't explain away our pain. **We bring our suffering and the suffering of world with us as, day after day, we celebrate the mystery of his death and resurrection at Mass**. Praying together in our Novena to Mary Untier of Knots, I have come to appreciate a solidarity among those who suffer, a solidarity we share with the Mother of Sorrows.

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- **Day 9 of our Novena to Mary Untier of Knots takes place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Drinks and nibbles will be served immediately after this, the final day of our Novena, which gathers together all our knots. Sincere thanks are due to our Choir whose faithful presence at every day of the Novena has made it so special.

This last Wednesday we had our first meeting of the **Steering Group** which will lead eventually to the formation of a **Parish Council**, a formal consultative body. As explained in previous weeks, I have invited a number of parishioners **already serving under one or more of the three headings of Priest, Prophet and King**. These three aspects of Christian commitment, celebrated in the Sacrament of Baptism, can be understood as **Liturgy, Formation and Service**, covering all aspects of parish life. Care has been taken to ensure a balance between the number of women and men. Although not all members will be free to attend all the meetings, members of the Steering Group are as follows:

Anne Byrne (Steward, Eucharistic Minister & Sacristy); Fran Caley (First Communion Preparation, Children's Liturgy & Choir); Richard Coase (Steward & Eucharistic Minister); Paula Curphey (Parish Office, Finance, Reader & Safeguarding); Finola Ellis (Steward); Debbie Kelly (Choir); Win Kewley (SVP, Reader & Eucharistic Minister); Tricia Kissack (Children's Liturgy & Eucharistic Minister); Michael Lees (Reader); Vida Manuel (Steward & Filipino Couples for Christ); Rosie McGinn (Parish Office, Finance, Reader & Eucharistic Minister); Neal Mellon (KSC, Reader & Foodbank); Juan Moore (Altar Servers & Eucharistic Minister); Brian Murphy (Steward & Reader); Gerard Murphy (Confirmation Preparation); Patrick O'Hanlon (Reader); Damian Peter (Finance & CAFOD); Dr John Thomas (Public Health advice).

The steering group will pave the way towards a Parish Council and serve as an interim sounding board on decisions regarding parish life. Our first meeting gave an introduction on how the Archdiocese and its parishes are organised and regulated both by Canon Law and UK Charity Law. This information is available on the Archdiocesan website:

[www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk). The steering group will meet again in January.

This weekend we begin our **Confirmation programme** for our young people as they prepare for their Confirmations at St Mary's at 5.00pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald has kindly agreed to celebrate the sacrament for us on that day. We thank our secondary school teachers and volunteers who give of their time to lead the sessions.

Our young people will be joined in the Confirmation ceremony by a number of **adult Catholics who have missed out on receiving this sacrament in the past**. They are now undertaking their own period of preparation. Please contact the parish office immediately if you would like to be a part of that group.

- **St. Anthony's Bingo** will take place this coming **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

**Masses for the coming week**  
*All Masses from St Mary's are live-streamed*

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b> 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>World Day of the Poor</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ann Fox, anniversary
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b> 33 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time <b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <i>World Day of the Poor</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Holy Souls For all the Faithful Departed
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	No Mass today		
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Edmund of Canterbury St Margaret of Scotland	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Jean Cannell, recently died
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Hilda	12.10 noon <b>7.00pm</b>	St Mary's <b>St Mary's</b>	Betty Johnstone, recently died <b>Novena to Mary Untier of Knots - Day 9</b>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Holy Souls Gordon Savage, birthday anniversary
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Chukwuenmeka Elendu (birthday)
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,</b> <b>Universal King</b> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	11.00am 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition Giselle and Eli Grewe, intentions
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> <b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,</b> <b>Universal King</b> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Joseph Quinn, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary

- We remember in our prayers the family and friends of **Shaun O'Hare** and **Billy Thompson** who died recently.

### **LGBTQ+ Catholics Liverpool Archdiocese Prayer and Support Group**

Inclusivity and diversity at many levels have been prominent in the discussions and proposals in our Synod journey. In April 2021 Archbishop Malcolm shared with us the following words.....*'It is important that we reach out to all our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters to show them that they have a place in the heart of our Church and the Archdiocese. We are a stronger and more powerful witness to Christ because of the presence of our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters; and far from denying their experience and the reality of their lives, we should learn from them and **hear God speaking through that reality**. It is my hope that we may find new ways of expressing inclusivity to witness to the fundamental Gospel teaching that **God's love has no limits.**'*

Over several months Canon Stephen Maloney has had the privilege of meeting with many LGBTQ+ Catholics and their families and friends. Listening to their stories and their commitment to the church has made a powerful impression on him. The pronouncements the church has made has caused them rejection and hurt, as has homophobic attitudes within some parts of the Church community.

Canon Stephen is aware that our Church is all the better for the presence of LGBTQ+ Catholics. On Sunday 26th September in the parish of All Saints, Mass was celebrated followed by a social gathering with Archbishop Malcolm. It was a joyous occasion. Further regular gatherings for Mass, prayer and support for the LGBTQ+ are planned. This is not intended to be, and indeed will not be, a kind of 'alternative' Church. There are many different groups within our Archdiocese who meet and find support and who focus on particular needs. As such, this group would be no different.

The next Mass will be at **All Saints, Anfield on Sunday 5th December at 12.30pm** followed by a social gathering. There is an open invitation to all our LGBTQ+ Catholics, their families and friends and also to anyone else who would like to come along.