

NEWSLETTER

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

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Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King 21st November 2021

Youth Sunday/World Youth Day

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

Dear Parishioners,

The economic situation doesn't look too healthy but most of us will still spend a bit extra on Christmas treats for our families. In recent years we have named charities both on and off the Island who could benefit from your support. For our **Christmas Appeal** this year, I propose we support the two Manx homeless charities **GRAIH** and **Housing Matters** along with **Stella Maris**, the Catholic Church's charity in support of seafarers. The name Stella Maris has added significance on the Island as a feature on the TT course close by the Ramsey Hairpin.

During our Novena the **Very Rev Nigel Godfrey**, Dean of St German's Cathedral in Peel, spoke of the plight of the homeless on the Island and of the wonderful work of Housing Matters and GRAIH. He explained how there are many roads to homelessness but that it is often associated with relationship breakdown and addiction. Homelessness is all the more poignant at Christmas, not least because the Holy Family sheltered in a stable. There is hidden suffering on the Island - out of sight but under our noses. **Michael Manning** sent us the following update from GRAIH: *Our shelter is open every night to provide emergency accommodation to any adult. Our drop-in is open six days a week and we continue our pastoral work visiting in the community (Prison, Hospital and accommodation). We provided over 500 bed spaces last year and served over 4,200 meals. We had contact with 291 different individuals. As we welcome vulnerable and chaotic guests we continue to see the chronic impact of the mental ill health crisis. We are so grateful for your prayers and support in so many ways. Further information at www.graih.org.im.*

Mike Hoy from Housing Matters sends this report: *The Isle of Man currently has a housing crisis the likes of which we have not been seen before in the time that **Housing Matters** has existed (over 13 years). The charity has had to manage many urgent cases of imminent homelessness due to the acute lack of accommodation and the cost of rents being driven up by scarcity. As we now approach winter and with the highly publicised increase in the cost of fuel many are facing the **stark choice of paying their rent or heating their homes**. Your donations will play a key part in this. The charity will help to provide Christmas presents and other treats to try and give a sense of normality to the children impacted by their family situation. Housing Matters is encouraged that the manifestos for the new Government administration have a focus on housing and poverty. Housing Matters will continue to push to see tangible progress. Thank you again for including us in your winter charity appeal. We very much appreciate your support and concern. www.housingmatters.im*

My friend **Father Colum Kelly** spoke at another evening of the Novena about his work as a Stella Maris chaplain at the massive container port of Immingham. The majority of crew members Fr Colum deals with are from South India and the Philippines and are away from home for months at a time. Very few will be home for Christmas. There is frequently no WiFi at sea. Many fail to see their newly born children for months on end or travel home for family tragedies. A high percentage of these seafarers are Catholics. Irregular pay, with deductions and poor working conditions, can be justifiably seen as a form of modern slavery. Fr Colum has been recognised by Pope Francis for championing their plight. www.stellamaris.org.uk

The COP 26 event in Glasgow has concentrated minds on the need for a personal response to the Climate Crisis. **During Advent I am inviting you to sponsor me in attempting to walk 10,000 steps per day in support of these three charities. You may like to make an alternative commitment yourselves and invite family and friends to sponsor you. (The StepsApp is available on smart phones.) Please place all sponsorship money in the GREEN envelopes that will remain available at the back of church throughout the Advent and Christmas Season.** These envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets at Mass or posted through the Parish Office letterbox. (Please issue cheques to St Mary of the Isle).

Liverpool Archdiocese Pastoral Plan: After the meeting of Synod 2020 in June this year, work began on preparing a Pastoral Plan. Based on the outcomes of the Synod, it will guide the Archdiocese in the years to come. The plan will be launched next weekend. There will be a postcard for every parishioner giving details of how to access the plan with an invitation to a meeting to hear about it. Copies of the plan will be available online from next weekend, the first Sunday of Advent, when the plan will be officially launched. Please pray that the Pastoral Plan will be received with open hearts.

- **World Youth Day:** Last November Pope Francis called for a relaunch of World Youth Day to be celebrated on today's feast of Christ the King - a day to celebrate and recognise the invaluable contribution of young people to the life of the local and universal church. We are blessed that our recent Archdiocesan Synod affirmed the place of young people and asked that they be a priority. It's encouraging that 25 teenagers have asked to be confirmed in January at St Mary's. We wish them every blessing as they begin this new stage on their faith journey.

- **St Mary's School:** Parents or grandparents of children due to start school in September 2022 are asked to register them at St Mary's School, before January 2022. **Children living anywhere on the Island who are baptised Catholics are eligible to attend our school.** Parishioners who attended the open day last year were impressed by the new extension and total refurbishment of the building. St Mary's school now offers superb facilities for the children who attend. Please phone headteacher Mrs Donna Martin on 673807 if you have any questions.
- Simple **Advent Lunches** of soup, roll and pudding with tea/coffee will be served from 12.30 to 1.30pm on Wednesdays 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. All welcome. Please call 475990 if you would like to come along.
- The **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 7th December** from **10.30am - 12 noon** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. All those with memory problems, their families, friends or carers will be warmly welcomed. **We will be in festive mood and are delighted to have 'The Uke Group' entertain us with Christmas songs.** Refreshments with mince pies will be served. Please contact Josie on 406063 or Amanda on 642879 for more details.
- **SVP Christmas Afternoon Tea:** St Anthony's SVP invites our elderly, housebound or retired parishioners to an afternoon tea at **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre at 2pm on Saturday 11th December.** Those wishing to attend are asked to enter their name and phone number onto the sheet(s) at the back of church (or ask someone to do it for you). Those requiring transport, please enter your address onto the sheet also. Transport will be provided for those who need it. Numbers are limited so please enter your names soon.

CAFOD: We have this week received letters from CAFOD thanking both parishes for your generous response to their recent appeals. The letters are pinned on the notice boards in both churches.

Siobhan from CAFOD Liverpool has emailed with the following information:

We invite you to our online **review of the year** where we will share all that the Catholic community has made possible this year. Please join our Director Christine Allen, online on **Thursday 25 November at 7pm-8pm.** Register here - <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/annual-report2021>. **Sign up for CAFOD daily Advent reflections:** These have been very popular and offer an opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Our Advent calendar is here cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar. There are also **free Advent children's liturgy resources** that catechists and parents may find useful <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>. Our World Gift catalogue is available at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk. Paper copies are available at the back of church.

- **Offertory Collections:** Weekend 14 November - St Anthony's £425; St Mary & St Joseph £645. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Masses for the coming week

All Masses from St Mary's are live-streamed

Saturday 20th November Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King <i>Youth Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Giselle and Eli Grewe, intentions
Sunday 21st November Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King <i>Youth Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Joseph Quinn, 1 st anniversary
Monday 22nd November St Cecilia	12.10pm 1.30pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Peter Simpson, 5 th anniversary Funeral Service: William Thompson
Tuesday 23rd November St Columban	10.00 12.00 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	George Bridson, anniversary Requiem Mass: Shaun O'Hare
Wednesday 24th November	No Mass today		
Thursday 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Lily & Larry McCabe; and Janet Moore, anniversaries
Friday 26th November	12.10 noon	St Mary's	KP Matthew Achenkunju, recently died
Saturday 27th November First Sunday of Advent	11.00am 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition People of our Parishes
Sunday 28th November First Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Brenda Park, anniversary Frank O'Neill, anniversary

- We remember in our prayers the family and friends of **Mavis Rodgers** whose funeral took place in St Mary's on Friday.