

# NEWSLETTER

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

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**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

(Year C for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

We used to celebrate the feast of Pentecost for eight days, the final day being Trinity Sunday. In the seminary, Trinity was the traditional time for ordinations. We spent the eight days of Pentecost in silent retreat, preparing for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of ordination.

I was very conscious of the role of the Holy Spirit as I lay on the floor of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool. Little did I know where the Holy Spirit would lead me as a priest in the years ahead.

Here are some of the things I have learned about the Holy Spirit in the years since:

- He may be a She. There's something about the Holy Spirit that's comforting – rather than a robust masculine and demanding presence.
- The Holy Spirit has a sense of humour. He/she enjoys knocking me off my high horse – ever so gently.
- The Holy Spirit functions best when I'm not aware of it. If I try to intervene, I get in the way.
- The Holy Spirit is at his or her best when I make a mess of things. The Spirit not only rescues me from my mistakes but actually converts them into advantages.
- I always found prayer difficult until I stopped trying and handed over to the Holy Spirit. Now he/she does the praying for me.

Father Richard Rohr describes the Holy Spirit as **the loving immensity of God's presence within us:**

*On one level, soul, consciousness, love, and the Holy Spirit can all be thought of as one and the same. Each of these point to something that is larger than the self, shared with God, and even eternal. That's what Jesus means when he speaks of "giving" us the Spirit or sharing his consciousness with us. One whose soul is thus awakened actually has "the mind of Christ" (see 1 Corinthians 2:10–16). That does not mean the person is psychologically or morally perfect, but such a transformed person does see things in a much more expanded and compassionate way. St. Paul calls it "a spiritual revolution of the mind" (Ephesians 4:23, Jerusalem Bible)—and it is!*

*Jesus calls this implanted Spirit the "Advocate" who is "with you and in you," makes you live with the same life that he lives, and unites you to everything else (John 14:16–20). He goes on to say that **this "Spirit of truth" will "teach you everything" and "remind you of all things" (John 14:26) as if you already knew this somehow.** Talk about being well-equipped from a Secret Inner Source! It really is too good to believe—so we didn't believe it. **Some call the Holy Spirit the "missing person of the Blessed Trinity."***

*There is an Inner Reminder and an Inner Rememberer (see John 14:26, 16:4) who holds together all the disparate and fragmented parts of our lives, who fills in all the gaps, who owns all the mistakes, who forgives all the failures—and who loves us into an ever-deeper life. This is the job description of the Holy Spirit, who is the spring that wells up within us (John 7:38–39)—and unto eternal time. This is **the breath that warms and renews everything** (John 20:22). These are **the eyes that see beyond the momentary shadow and disguise of things** (John 9); these are **the tears that wash and cleanse the past** (Matthew 5:4). And better yet, they are not only our tears but are actually the very presence and consolation of God within us (2 Corinthians 1:3–5).*

*You must contact this Immensity! You must know that this Immensity is already within you. The only thing separating you from such Immensity is your unwillingness to trust such an utterly free grace, such a completely unmerited gift.*

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- I am grateful to **Monsignor Stephen Alker** who will be standing in for me during my absence over the next few weeks. I am travelling to Spain for eleven days on my motorcycle along with several days of Archdiocesan meetings. A priest of the Archdiocese, Monsignor Stephen was brought up on the Island and helped us out last year. He spent many years as a chaplain with the British Army. I know you will make him welcome.
- I hope you've enjoyed TT week. It's been great to see the Island coming alive. To be honest I enjoy looking at the bikes of the visitors as much as the racing itself. I've had four enthusiasts staying with me in the presbytery. Although they came by car, they're life-long bikers. I'm biased, but I've never met a bad biker. They're always ready to help. After a few pints, anglers brag to each other about the size of fish they have caught. When bikers get together, they outdo each other in telling stories of breakdowns and how fellow bikers came to their rescue. *Fr John*

## St Anthony's Grounds

A big 'Thank You' to those volunteers who turned up last Saturday to work on St Anthony's Church grounds. They made great progress. In particular, the rose garden planted in honour of Canon Eugene Hopkins is now weed-free. A little more work needs to be done on the flower bed at the rear of the rose bushes. This requires another session. Saturday 18 June at 9.30am has been suggested. Thanks again to those who responded so generously and to those who provided well-earned refreshments. Thanks also to our long-term gardener Dougie Porter.

## Digital Collection Plate

We are taking part in a Liverpool Archdiocesan scheme to pilot **credit card donations** - an alternative way of giving using your debit or credit card in place of cash for those who wish.

- Mounted on a stand at the back of church the 'Digital Collection Plate' device is amazingly simple to use.
- Debit or Credit card payments can be either contactless or chip and PIN.
- Tap the screen to indicate the amount you wish to give, then tap your card as you would in any retail outlet.
- Donations are paid directly into Saint Mary's bank account.
- Cash payments continue for those who prefer.
- Options for contributing via standing order and online continue.
- These options reduce the need for volunteers to count and bank cash collections each week.

Thanks to those who have already chosen to give this way. Their feedback confirms 'it's so easy to use'.

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- **St Anthony's Bingo** takes place on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome.
- **Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage Fundraising Event:** An evening of Food, Music & Dancing from around the world is planned for Friday 17 June at 6.30pm at South Douglas Old Friends Hall, Finch Road, Douglas. Admission £12; Under 12 years old free. Please contact Sheila on 475990 or Damian on 475446 for tickets.
- **Knights of St Columba Lourdes Walk** will take place on **Sunday 26 June** at the Arboretum St Johns at 2pm. Sponsor Forms available from Ivan Park, telephone 674364.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's: £283; St Mary & St Joseph: £426. Thank you.

## Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</b>	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Pearl McFeat, anniversary Kevin Manning, recently died
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Anthony of Padua	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>		
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> <i>Eucharistic Service</i>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Ian Dacre, recently died
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Richard of Chichester	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Veronica Romago, sick Pauline Berry, recently died
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Nora Tempest, anniversary
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</b>	11.00am 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June</b> <b>Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Mark Mander, 8 <sup>th</sup> anniversary John Smith, 2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary

**Pope Francis** says 'It is not easy to understand, but we can live this mystery of the **Holy Trinity**. Because love is essentially a gift of self, and in its original and infinite reality it is the Father who gives himself by generating his Son, who in turn gives himself to the Father, and their mutual love is the Holy Spirit, the bond of their unity. May the **Virgin Mary, dwelling-place of the Trinity**, help us to welcome with an open heart the love of God, which fills us with joy and gives meaning to our journey in this world, always guiding us towards our destination, which is Heaven.'