

NEWSLETTER

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

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27th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 2nd October 2022 (Page 146 in Mass book)

Rosary Sunday

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

Dear Parishioners

I'm back in action after a few days' absence. Thanks to Mgr Stephen Alker, I managed to combine a family gathering with a visit to Stratford upon Avon. I rounded off my time away with meetings at the Archdiocesan office in Liverpool. One highlight of my break was a production of *Richard III* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Another highlight was time spent with my 10 great nieces and great nephews. They range in age from four years old to twenty. I have no children of my own but it's nice to know they carry some of my DNA.

Irish Augustinian priest Fr Seamus Ahearne has this to say about holidays. It matches my own experience:

'It is a luxury to be away. To be with friends. To walk and to sit. To let the air speak to me. To listen to the sea. To hear the gentle breeze. My walking stick helps the rambling. All steps everywhere are becoming more difficult. What is the need and the value to be away? To step back. To realize that the relentless preparation of every day - Masses; funerals; baptisms; sick calls; meetings; weddings; parishioners' problems; weekends; responses to emails and letters, takes its toll. The 'job' is never done. There is always much left undone and we cannot ever catch up. But we must accept this and respect it. I may be 76 shortly and am still full of energy but stepping back and looking at life without the workaholic attitude is essential. I am blessed in that my 'work' (ministry) is a joy and a privilege. I love where I am and those among whom I work. Nonetheless, they also need a rest from me.'

While away I got time to read. Fr Seamus went on to say:

'My holiday book is 'The Umbrian Thursday Night Supper Club' by Marlena de Blasi. I like the idea of the book. It is set in Umbria. It is a weekly get together, mainly of women. They come away from home and gather in an old broken down shed with ancient cooking facilities. They cook. They love their food. There is a reverence for the food and it is quite elaborate. The flavours are exotic. They vie with each other for variety. They plan together and there is a hierarchy. But intertwined in the preparation and the cooking and the eating, are the life stories. These are deep reflections on life; on love; on family; on philosophical questions; on God. Men don't always emerge with much credit. Priests and nuns are often caricatured. But the enduring big questions are sprinkled everywhere. Cheap easy answers aren't tolerated.

I liked the book. But especially I liked the Table. I liked the Food. I liked the Talking. I liked the Reflections. I almost felt jealous. I want something of their Thursday evening to be a pattern for our Eucharist. A listening. A nourishing. A depth. A story-telling. The holiness of daily life with its complexities. Its failures and successes. The twists and turns. The unsureness. The excavation of our own personal history. The holiness of the ordinary. The inscrutable nature of God and love. The Table has to release the God of everyday life.'

This year's **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** will begin in St Mary's Church at **3pm this Sunday 2 October, Rosary Sunday**. The theme of this introductory session is *'Identifying the Knots in our Lives'*. The second session takes place on **Thursday 6th October at 7.00pm** when the theme will be *'Untying the Knots of Childhood Memories'*.

Dates and times of all 9 services are as follows:

Day 1	Sunday 2 October	3pm
Day 2	Thursday 6 October	7pm
Day 3	Tuesday 11 October	7pm
Day 4	Sunday 16 October	3pm
Day 5	Friday 21 October	7pm
Day 6	Wednesday 26 October	7pm
Day 7	Wednesday 2 November	7pm
Day 8	Monday 7 November	7pm
Day 9	Thursday 10 November	7pm



- **Advance notice:** The **3pm Sunday Novena service on 16 October** will focus on **sickness and ill health**. It will include an opportunity to receive **the Sacrament of the Sick**. Eucharistic ministers and SVP members may wish to advise the housebound that this is taking place.
- **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 4th October from 10.30am to 12 noon** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone warmly welcome. Refreshments served. Please contact Josie 406063 or Amanda 642879.
- Attention young people! The **100th anniversary** of the **Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** is next year 2023. Young people aged 15 to 22 years are encouraged to travel by coach to Lourdes for this special occasion. Online booking for the youth contingent opens on 5th October with £40 deposit. Everyone interested, please contact Alex McLoughlin, (Coach 9 staff) on **07624 371221** or email alexmccloughlin97@gmail.com. Places are limited. More information on www.liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk.
- **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** is next **Friday 7 October**. This Harvest, CAFOD is responding to the **World Food Crisis**. East Africa is in the midst of a terrible food crisis affecting millions of people. Across Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and in Somalia, families are facing extreme levels of hunger and malnutrition. Four years of drought have exacerbated existing food and water shortages in the region. Tragically, famine is now looming in some areas and predictions are that the coming rains will fail. CAFOD is supporting their local Caritas partners as they provide life-saving emergency assistance. Please find the Family Fast Day collection envelopes at the back of church or please give online at cafod.org.uk/fastday. You might like to view this short but powerful [video](#) featuring the story of a woman named Talaso from Marsabit in northern Kenya who is determined that her children have enough to eat and go to school. CAFOD thanks you for your prayers and donations to our **Disaster Emergency Committee Pakistan Floods Appeal**. Their partners have been able to deliver immediate food and medical relief to flood affected communities in Sindh Province in Pakistan and will continue to do so. CAFOD recognises that these are tough times for many in the UK and Ireland. During previous times of financial difficulties, the Catholic community appreciated the opportunity to stand alongside the world's most vulnerable communities, even when going through difficulties themselves. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers.
- **Island Spirituality Network:** The next ISN meeting will be held on **Saturday 8th October from 10am - 1pm at St John's Mill**. The speaker is **Revd Richard Carter** who comes from St Martin's in the Fields in the heart of London. His theme for the morning will be *'The City is my Monastery - a contemporary rule of life'*.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's: £354; St Mary & St Joseph: £550. Thank you for your generosity and thank you to those who contribute online and also via our 'digital collection plate'.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 1st October 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Loredana & Andrea Polizzi, 25 th anniv
Sunday 2nd October 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Rosary Sunday	9.30am 11.00am 3.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Rose & William Keenan, anniversary Novena to Mary Untier of Knots, Day 1
Monday 3rd October	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>		
Tuesday 4th October St Francis of Assisi	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Michael James Shimmin, 1 st anniversary
Wednesday 5th October St Faustina Kowalska	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Dympna Sheehan, recently died
Thursday 6th October St Bruno	10.00am 12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Mary McElholm, recently died Novena to Mary Untier of Knots, Day 2
Friday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary CAFOD Family Fast Day; First Friday	12.10 noon 6.30pm 7.00pm	St Mary's St Anthony's St Anthony's	Eileen Malone, recently died <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> Bryan Stott, recently died
Saturday 8th October 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time	<i>No Confessions or Exposition</i> 5.00pm		St Mary's Roy Slann, recently died
Sunday 9th October 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time Day for Prisoners & their Dependants	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Madge & Mathew O'Brien, anniversary People of our Parishes