

NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle and St Joseph, Douglas
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Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, 20th November 2022
Youth Sunday
(Page 167 in Mass book)
(Year C for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

I recall the hilarity with which people reacted to Prime Minister David Cameron's misinterpretation of the acronym 'LOL', frequently used in text messages. He thought it meant 'Lots of Love' rather than 'Laugh out Loud'. I was intrigued to read in a Sunday newspaper last week of another acronym familiar to users of social media: 'AIBU?' It means '**Am I being unreasonable?**' The author went on to list a series of other people's behaviour that annoyed her. 'Am I being unreasonable' is also now the title of a TV comedy series.

Mumsnet, the internet forum for parents, recently focussed on what some consider to be unreasonable behaviours: wearing pyjamas in public; clipping your nails, flossing, or having loud phone conversations on public transport or in restaurants (some might add having loud conversations in church when other people are trying to pray). Most conflict between neighbours centres on unreasonable behaviour: loud music and late night revelry, barking dogs, noisy children, inconsiderate parking, over-hanging trees and untrimmed hedges etc. At the opposite end of the spectrum, unreasonable behaviour is cited as one of the principal factors in divorce proceedings.

How much of my conversation is spent criticising others and their preferences and behaviour? In the past 'gossip', as it was called, referred to conversations. Much of this now takes place on social media. What passes as gossip among adults easily becomes bullying when children ridicule their classmates on their smart phones.

This led me to reflect on how negative our society has become. Are we less considerate or less tolerant than previous generations? Electronic communication certainly allows us to spread our negativity more widely.

To be fair to Mumsnet, they employ another acronym when complaints themselves are considered unreasonable: 'YABOS' – 'You are being oversensitive'. There's another acronym we might also consider: WWJD. 'What would Jesus do?'

The Isle of Man Government is embarking on a period of public consultation regarding '**Assisted Dying**'. Churches Alive in Mann (CAIM), of which I am a member, have a shared concern for the **Sanctity of Human Life**. We are supporting the following awareness raising events at four venues across the Island. Members of our parishes are encouraged to attend:

Tuesday 29 November - Peel Methodist Church, 7.30pm

Wednesday 30 November - Living Hope, Port St Mary, 7.30pm

Thursday 1 December - The Bethel, Ramsey, 7.30pm

Friday 2 December - Broadway Baptist, Douglas, 7.30pm

Fr John

- We have received a wonderful response to the **Joint Birthday Celebration for Canon Brendan and Fr Brian to take place from 2pm - 4pm at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on Wednesday 23 November**. For those who have let us know they would like to attend, thank you, you need only bring yourselves. Food will be provided by the caterers so please do not bring food on the day.
- **Warm and Cosy Centre at the Columba Club**: Open to all each Monday and Friday from 10am to 2pm. No charge, just a warm and cosy welcome. Tea, coffee and homemade soup available.
- The **Memory Support Group** will meet at **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on 6 December 2022 at 10.30am-12 noon**. This will be the last meeting this year. There will be an old-style Christmas sing along with Claire Kilgallon. Please come along. Everybody will be warmly welcomed. Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served. For further information please contact Josie on 406063 or Amanda on 642879.

- **St Anthony's SVP Christmas Tea** for elderly parishioners will take place in **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on Saturday 10th December from 2pm to 4pm**. There will be a list at the back of church next week for names. Santa Claus will be in attendance.
- **On Saturday 17th December** St Anthony's SVP members are hosting a party for the children in Little Church from 2pm to 4pm. Santa Claus will make an appearance during the afternoon.
- **Onchan Commissioners** will be holding their **Night of Light** event in **Onchan Park on Wednesday 7th December 2022** between **5.30pm and 9.30pm**. The event will include an open-air Ecumenical carol service and switching on of the Christmas lights at 6.00pm. It would be good to have members of our parishes attend this event with their families.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £390, St Mary's £720. Thank you for your generosity.
- **Living Hope at St Joseph's Church, Snaefell Road, Willaston** are offering a **free Community Christmas Day Meal** from 12 noon to 3pm on Christmas Day. If you know anyone who would appreciate some company with a Christmas Day lunch, please let us know and we can pass your name and contact on to Living Hope. For transport or more information please call Living Hope on 493500.
- Congratulations to **Aimee Dunne** and **Philip Knox** who got married in St Mary's last weekend. We congratulate them and wish them every blessing and happiness.
- **LGBTQ+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool:** The next event will be at All Saints, Anfield, Liverpool on Sunday 11 December. Mass will begin at 2pm followed by a social gathering.
- **St Mary's Catholic Primary School:** Parents/Grandparents, who have, or know of any, children due to start school in September 2023 are requested to register them at St Mary's School before January 2023. **Children living anywhere on the Island who are baptised in the Catholic church are eligible to attend our school.** In the case of Catholic children, catchment area restrictions do not apply. Preparation for First Holy Communion forms part of the Religious Education programme. St Mary's school has recently been extended and completely refurbished. It now offers superb facilities for our children. Parents or carers who have any questions or queries are invited to contact headteacher Donna Martin 673807.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 19th November <i>Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Catherine McQuillan, recently died
Sunday 20th November <i>Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
	11.00am	St Mary's	Holy Souls
Monday 21st November Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Renilda Carpenter, recently died
Tuesday 22nd November St Cecilia	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Holy Souls
Wednesday 23rd November St Columbanus	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Jan Moore
Thursday 24th November St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	10.00am	St Anthony's	Canon Brendan & Fr Brian, birthdays
	12.10 noon	St Mary's	George Bridson, anniversary
Friday 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Deceased Members of the Knights of St Columba
	1.15pm	Douglas Crematorium	Funeral Service: Sarah Williamson
Saturday 26th November 1st Sunday of Advent	11am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
	5.00pm	St Mary's	Patrick & Mary Reaney, anniversary
Sunday 27th November 1st Sunday of Advent	9.30am	St Anthony's	Brenda Park, anniversary
	11.00am	St Mary's	Frank O'Neill, 5 th anniversary

Pope Francis' message to Young People on Youth Sunday: *'I am reminded of the words which God spoke to Abraham: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." (Gen 12.1). These words are also addressed to you. They are words of a Father who invites you to "go", to set out towards a future which is unknown but one which will surely lead to fulfilment, a future towards which He Himself accompanies you. I invite you to hear God's voice resounding in your heart through the breath of the Holy Spirit.'*