

NEWSLETTER

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

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15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 16th July 2023

(Page 102 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

It was wonderful to see so many people honouring Canon Brendan's memory by attending his funeral rites and praying for his eternal rest. The service of reception last Sunday evening had the feel of a family occasion. Although sad, there was a dignity and serenity about it. The Requiem Mass was a more formal occasion. The presence of Archbishop Malcolm and Bishop Tom and so many priests made it extra special. On both occasions, however, the people of the parish were at their best, taking pride in their priest who had given 33 years of his life to them. Also striking was the number of people attending who don't often make it to Mass; a reminder that our Catholic community is wider and more embracing than those we see on Sundays; and a reminder, too, that much of a priest's time and energy is spent in their service.

Canon Brendan's funeral was the first to take place on the Island for many years. He chose to remain on the Island after retirement. It was fitting that Canon Brendan's identification with Island life was celebrated in this way. And he chose to be buried here, in Braddan Cemetery, appropriately named St Brendan's in Manx Gaelic. The last such occasion was the funeral of Monsignor Turner. Peter Kelly has shared black and white photos of that funeral. Archbishop Heenan (later to be Cardinal) travelled to the Island to preside. This was in the days before concelebration. I could make out thirteen priests sitting in the choir stalls at St Mary's and then gathering around the open grave in the garden of St Mary's church. There is a tradition in every diocese that priests attend each other's funerals. On the Island that's not always possible. Among the sixteen priests attending Canon Brendan's funeral were fellow students, those whom he taught, and those who had served alongside him in parishes. May Canon Brendan rest in peace.

Canon Brendan's brother Des has asked me to pass on his thanks for the support Brendan received during his retirement and final illness. He was especially moved by the numbers who attended the vigil and the Requiem Mass. It was a comfort for him to see how highly regarded Canon Brendan was.

This week, 1,500 people from the Archdiocese will be heading to Lourdes in a historic year which marks 100 years since the first pilgrimage from Liverpool. The Archdiocese of Liverpool is the first diocese in England to reach this milestone. Since 1923, hundreds of thousands of people from across the Archdiocese have made the journey over to the south of France every year, with the exception of World War II and the Covid pandemic. My own Mum and Dad took part in those pilgrimages before the war and before they married. They always spoke of those special days when foreign travel, even to neighbouring France, was rare. It was an arduous journey by train and ferry. The French trains in those days had basic wooden seats and the journey through France alone took twenty-four hours and there was no air conditioning.....

This year's pilgrimage will begin on **Friday 21-28 July** and will be led by Archbishop Malcolm. Pilgrims, volunteers and medical staff will travel by air on chartered flights from Liverpool John Lennon airport. A 'Jumbulance', a specially adapted and fully accessible coach, will travel overland with 7 assisted pilgrims.

Our young people today continue to have that same opportunity. Although less arduous, it is still an adventure and the memory will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Three hundred young people, making up the Liverpool Youth Pilgrimage, will travel on coaches from Chorley, Knowsley, Isle of Man, Leyland, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton, Warrington, Widnes and Wigan, leaving in the early hours of Thursday 20 July to begin the 24-hour journey. When they arrive, many of the young people will get up as early as 4.30am to work in the hospital, while others assist pilgrims to the various places of devotion and Masses.

Not all of us can take part in the pilgrimage. We can however identify with our pilgrims, our sick people and their helpers in a virtual 'mini pilgrimage'. We can commend to Mary's prayers all of our sick parishioners and friends and those who care for them. At each of our Masses during the pilgrimage we will be saying the Lourdes Pilgrimage Centenary Prayer and reciting a decade of the rosary.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Fr John

Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Centenary Prayer

Blessed Virgin Mary, at your school, Bernadette entered into a relationship with the Holy Trinity through the sign of the Cross. By teaching her prayer and penance for sinners, you conveyed to her the joy of salvation. You revealed to her the beauty of your pure heart when you said, "I am the Immaculate Conception". With Bernadette, we turn to you trusting completely in your maternal intercession. Accept the intentions of our hearts in this novena of prayer (especially for.....)

Our Lady of Lourdes, we pray to you especially for our own conversion and for all sinners. Watch over those who suffer in body or soul. In the hope that Life will triumph over death, from this moment and for ever more, we want to sing with you the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. St Bernadette, pray for us.

Copies of this prayer are available at the back of church.

Congratulations to our couples who married recently: *Mark Mobley & Rebecca Foulger; Daryl Tan & Dannica Garpaao; David Lovelady & Caitlin Hume; Anthony Avrili & Heather Allen and Jimmy Warren & Siobhan Dooley.* May they be blessed with many happy years together.

And **Welcome** into our parish community these little ones who were recently baptised: *Emily French, Penelope Johnson, Sadie Lamprecht, Rory Turpin, Lola Crowe, Declan Bang, James Cooper, Ronnie Berry, Charlie Capper, Mabel Hudgeon, Violet McWhinnie, Jaxon Hardinge, Edith McKenna, Flynn Ludwig-Looney, Justin Narra, Olivia Clegg, Tiernan Crellin, Adelaide Pope and Sammi Carbo.*

- **School Tesco Tokens: Message from Donna Martin, headteacher of St Mary's School** - If you shop in Tesco, please collect a blue token for St Mary's School at the counter as you leave the store. This will help our school raise funds to develop the field for our children. Your help would be much appreciated. Thank you!
- **Advance Notice: St Anthony's SVP** will be holding an afternoon tea fundraiser on Saturday 16th September in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Full details will follow in the newsletter in coming weeks.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £520; St Mary & St Joseph £1,020. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 15th July 15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Prem Ananth & Selveraj, anniversary
Sunday 16th July 15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Joe Greene, 6 th anniversary People of our Parishes
Monday 17th July	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Marissa Martin, sick
Tuesday 18th July	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Sue Manning, recently died
Wednesday 19th July	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Armondas Burinskas, anniversary
Thursday 20th July	10.00am 12.10 noon 2.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Anthony's	Noirín Cahill, deceased Gwendoline Brown & Howard Cook, sick Funeral Service: Tom Trickett
Friday 21st July St Laurence of Brindisi	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Frank & Selina Hunter, anniversary
Saturday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene 16 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00 to 12.00 noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition Jose Gallo Santacruz, anniversary
Sunday 23rd July 16 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Miguel Valencia, deceased

We hold in prayer our parishioner **Walter Gilbey** who died in hospice on Thursday evening. We think of his wife Jenifer and family in their loss. We remember **Tom Trickett** whose funeral takes place in St Anthony's on Thursday. We pray for his grieving wife Pat and son Alex. A funeral will also take place this coming week for a newborn baby of 12 days old. We pray for the baby's grieving parents. May they rest in peace.