

## NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) Website [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

(Year B for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays) (Page 149 in Mass book)

Dear Parishioners

This week **Pope Francis** has published a new encyclical letter on **the Sacred Heart of Jesus**. *'Dilexit Nos'* - *'He loved us'* calls for a renewal in devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Attributed to St Margaret Mary Alacoque in 17<sup>th</sup> century France, devotion to the Sacred Heart was seen as an antidote to a strict, rigid and loveless Catholicism. Pope Francis says that today's world is also loveless and never more in need of the overwhelming and selfless love celebrated in devotion to the Sacred Heart:

1. 'Because **He loved us first**, we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us.'

2. **'The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ.** Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.

4. The disciples of Emmaus, on their mysterious journey in the company of the risen Christ, experienced a moment of anguish, confusion, despair and disappointment. Yet beyond and in spite of this, something was happening deep within them: **"Were not our hearts burning within us** while he was talking to us on the road?" (Lk 24:32).

8. Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about **the really important questions in life**. Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart.....

9. We find ourselves immersed in **societies of serial consumers who live from day to day**, dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology, lacking in the patience needed to engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires. In contemporary society, people risk losing their centre, the centre of their very selves..... Models of behaviour that, sadly, are now widespread exaggerate our rational-technological dimension or, on the contrary, that of our instincts". **No room is left for the heart.....**

11. If we devalue the heart, we also devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart. If we fail to appreciate the specificity of the heart, we miss the messages that the mind alone cannot communicate; we miss out on the richness of our encounters with others; we miss out on poetry. We also lose track of history and our own past, since our real personal history is built with the heart. At the end of our lives, that alone will matter.

19. The best expression of how the heart thinks is found in the two passages in Saint Luke's Gospel that speak to us of how Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (cf. Lk 2:19 and 51). In Luke 2:51 what Mary "kept" was not only her memory of what she had seen and heard, but also those aspects of it that she did not yet understand; these nonetheless remained present and alive in her memory, waiting to be "put together" in her heart.

20. In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that **poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity....** This profound core, present in every man and woman, is not that of the soul, but of the entire person in his or her unique psychosomatic identity. Everything finds its unity in the heart, which can be the dwelling-place of love in all its spiritual, psychic and even physical dimensions. In a word, if love reigns in our heart, we become, in a complete and luminous way, the persons we are meant to be, for every human being is created above all else for love. In the deepest fibre of our being, **we were made to love and to be loved.**

22. For this reason, when we witness the outbreak of **new wars**, with the complicity, tolerance or indifference of other countries, or petty power struggles over partisan interests, we may be tempted to conclude that **our world is losing its heart**. We need only to see and listen to the elderly women – from both sides – who are at the mercy of these devastating conflicts. It is heart-breaking to see them mourning for their murdered grandchildren, or longing to die themselves after losing the homes where they spent their entire lives. Those women, who were often pillars of strength and resilience amid life's difficulties and hardships, now, at the end of their days, are experiencing, in place of a well-earned rest, only anguish, fear and outrage. Casting the blame on others does not resolve these shameful and tragic situations. To see these elderly women weep, and not feel that this is something intolerable, is **a sign of a world that has grown heartless.** (The encyclical letter is 130 pages long. I'll be sharing more extracts over coming weeks.)

Last Monday we concluded this year's **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots**. Nine successive days take a lot of commitment – and a lot of organising. The novena was well supported not just by those who were physically present but by loyal followers off Island. We are grateful to our guest speakers who gave moving insights into the painful realities of mental ill-health, domestic abuse and relationship breakdown. Though these burdens and knots have a negative impact on members of our own congregation there was an unspoken sense of hope and solidarity among those who participated. There was also a shared awareness of the clouds of multiple deaths and innocent suffering in the Middle East and Ukraine. This sense of silent solidarity came together when we shared Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; Jesus himself suffers with us in our broken world. And thanks to our choir who accompanied us.

The next session of our **Reflections on the Word** will be on **Wednesday 13 November at 7pm** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone is welcome.

**Cathedral Inauguration Anniversary.** Everyone welcome to a special Mass at 7.00pm on Thursday 7 November in St Mary's at which **Archbishop Malcolm** will preside to celebrate the first anniversary of the Inauguration.

- **CAFOD** as a member of the **Disasters Emergency Committee** has joined efforts to launch an emergency appeal to help families in Gaza and Lebanon. They ask for compassion, donations and prayers. Please see posters at back.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for **St Anthony's Church, Onchan**, will be emptied over the next 2 weeks. If you have a box, please leave it in St. Anthony's church porch.
- The **'Warm and Cosy Hub'** will resume this **Monday 28 October** and will run each week on Monday and Friday from 10am until 2pm throughout the winter months in the Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas. Hot soup with bread and butter will be served - tea, coffee and biscuits with a warm welcome. Thanks to the Knights and volunteers.
- The annual **Fair-Trade** event at the **Cooill** is taking place from **Thursday 31 October** to **Saturday 2 November** from **10am to 6.30pm each day**. See poster for full details at the back of church.
- **T and Chat** will next meet on **5 November 2024** from **10.30am to 12noon**. Sue Magee has kindly offered to do a floral arrangement presentation. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Tea/coffee and cake will be served.
- A **Christmas Indoor Boot Fair** will take place on **Saturday 30 November** from **10am to 4pm** at the **Columba Club**. All proceeds will go to the Columba Club. For more details see the poster at the back of church.
- **St Anthony's SVP Christmas party for adult parishioners** will be held on **Saturday 7 December** from **2 - 4pm** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. The **children's Christmas party** will take place on **Sunday 8 December** from **2 - 3.30pm** in the Pastoral Centre. Santa Claus will be making an appearance plus a magician for the children. Forms for registering for both parties will be at the back of both churches this weekend. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £868, St Anthony's £451. This does not include standing orders or the tap and pay machine at the back of St Mary's church. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

### Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	John Coyle, anniversary
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Tony Gillespie, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b> Saints Simon and Jude	12.10pm	St Mary's	Hugh McFeat, anniversary
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Tony Buckley, recently died
<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Marguerita Daugherty, anniversary
<b>Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Paul Douglas, recently died
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b> <i>All Saints Day (Holyday)</i>	12.10pm 7.00pm	St Mary's <b>St Anthony's</b>	Ben McCarrick, recently died Evelyn Denver, anniversary
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b> <i>All Souls Day</i>	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Holy Souls
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Edward Fargher, anniversary