**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
 Tel** 01624 675509 **Email** saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk **Website** [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

 **19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 10th August 2025**

  **(**Year C for Sundays; Cycle 1 for weekdays)

 *(Page 449 for Order of the Mass; Readings: Page 940)*

Dear Parishioners,

Next Friday 15th August we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** There are many feasts of Our Lady in the church’s calendar. This is the principal one. Most years I am away on holiday in August, often in France or in Spain where August 15th is a public holiday. It has remained so in those countries even in increasingly secular times. This year as I retire at the end of the month, I will be here to celebrate the feast of the Assumption on the Island. In the nine days leading up to 15th August, I invite you to pray once again the **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots**. We will be reciting the Novena prayer each day at Mass. You may also wish to recite this prayer privately at home during these nine days. The picture of Mary Untier of Knots is resting on the sanctuary for the duration of the Novena. **A 7pm Mass on Friday 15 August at St Mary’s in honour of Our Lady will mark the close of the Novena,** when those present will be invited to place their knotted ribbons in the basket before Mary’s image.

I have been invited to preside and preach at the annual Mass in honour of Our Lady with parishioners from Castletown and Port Erin at 3.00pm on Saturday 16th August in the ruins of **Rushen Abbey.** Parishioners from all parishes on the island are very welcome to take part. The feast of **Our Lady of Rushen** is observed throughout the Liverpool Archdiocese on 12th September.

**Devotion to Mary is a traditional feature of Catholic life**. In times of hardship, suffering and sickness we instinctively turn to her seeking her prayers. When the church itself has been persecuted over the centuries, even to the present day, Catholics have turned to Mary for her protection. When today’s Latin American countries gained their independence from Spain and Portugal in the 19th century the source of priests dried up. The faith survived on Baptism celebrated by priests visiting maybe once per year but the people kept their faith alive by saying **the Rosary.**

Recent generations of the Island’s young Catholics have matured in their faith by taking part in the **Liverpool Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**. As the personal testimonies from four of our young Manx people movingly demonstrate, Our Lady of Lourdes is the one who leads them to make their inherited faith their own and to experience the vital connection between religious practice and serving those in need:

*‘My first year on this Lourdes Pilgrimage trip was incredibly inspiring, healing and moving. Through this experience, I believe I was able to confidently grow stronger in my faith alongside peers who share the same beliefs. I will certainly love to serve the pilgrims in the next following years!’*

*‘This summer, I had the privilege of returning to Lourdes Archdiocesan Pilgrimage. As always, it was a truly moving and humbling experience. Being part of a community built on faith, service, and compassion reminded me why I even go in the first place, whether it was helping someone in need, sharing in prayer, or just being present for others. Lourdes continues to be a place where heaven touches earth, and I’m so grateful for the memories, the people and the peace it brings each time. Thank you to everyone who supported and prayed for us on our journey.’*

*‘I greatly enjoyed my Lourdes trip this year, being able to meet so many new people and catch up with old friends was great. Furthermore, I felt that my faith was strengthened immensely along with my relationship to Our Lady being deepened greatly. Being able to help people in such a direct and meaningful way felt great and is not something I often get to do in normal life. I would recommend the trip to anyone thinking about it.’*

*‘This year and last, I have been overwhelmed by the strong sense of community felt throughout the Hospitality, Youth and assisted pilgrims from the Liverpool Archdiocese. Being able to help and be a part of such a monumental effort has been incredibly rewarding. Helping the pilgrims in the Saint Frai ward was especially fulfilling and gave me a better insight into the work lives of the Hospitality members and the lives of the more dependent assisted pilgrims.’*

Thank you also to parishioners who brought back prayer cards and gifts and who lit candles for our parishioners and for me in Lourdes.

During the **Mass for the Jubilee of Young People** at Tor Vergata in Rome, last Sunday morning, **Pope Leo XIV** reminded the young people that Jesus is our hope and urged them to "*adventure with the Lord toward eternity*" as the Lord is "***gently knocking***" at the window of their soul.

"*We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static, but for an existence that is constantly renewed through the gift of self in love." "This is why*," he said, "*we continually aspire to something 'more' that no created reality can give us; we feel a deep and burning thirst that no drink in this world can satisfy*."

"*Knowing this*," he said, "*let us not deceive our hearts by trying to satisfy them with cheap imitations*!" Rather, he suggested, "*Let us listen to them*!" Fr John

* Everyone is welcome to **St Anthony’s Charity Bingo** on **Thursday 14 August** at 7.30pm in Pastoral Centre.
* **Invitation from Fr Joseph, Castletown** to Rushen Abbey Open-Air Mass in honour of Our Lady of Rushen at **3pm on Saturday 16 August 2025**. This Mass is part of the Jubilee Year of Hope with theme***Mary, Mother of Hope.*** Main Celebrant Fr John Devine. All parishioners welcome.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

*All Masses and Services from St Mary’s are live-streamed*1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Saturday 9th August**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | Brian Keenan, anniversary |
| **Sunday 10th August**19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Fr Brian DoughertyPeople of our Parishes |
| **Monday 11th August**St Clare | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 12th August**St Jane Frances de Chantal | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*May & Frank Quayle, anniversary |
| **Wednesday 13th August** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Agostino Signorio, anniversary |
| **Thursday 14th August**St Maximilian Kolbe | ***10.00am***12.10pm | ***St Anthony’s***St Mary’s | ***Requiem Mass: Anne Bowman***Bernard Simpson, deceased |
| **Friday 15th August*****The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*** | 12.10pm**7.00pm** | St Mary’s**St Mary’s** | Mary Hardinge, anniversaryParishioners’ intentions***(Final day of Novena)*** |
| **Saturday 16th August**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 11.00am to 12noon*3.00pm*5.00pm | St Mary’s*Rushen Abbey*St Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions *Open Air Mass, Our Lady of Rushen*Norah Cullinane, anniversary |
| **Sunday 17th August**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | People of our ParishesFr John’s intentions |

We remember in our prayers **Anne Bowman** who died last week. May she rest in peace. We think of her grieving family and friends who mourn her loss. Anne’s Requiem Mass takes place at 10am on Thursday in St Anthony’s.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam International, Amnesty International and 106 other agencies have signed a letter charging the Israeli government of blocking humanitarian organizations from effectively distributing life-saving aid.

"Just outside Gaza in warehouses - and even within Gaza itself - tons of food, clean water, medical supplies, shelter items and fuel sit untouched with humanitarian organizations blocked from accessing or delivering them," the agencies wrote. "The government of Israel's restrictions, delays, and fragmentation under its total siege have created chaos, starvation, and death."

The statement also quoted an aid worker in Gaza who said: "Children tell their parents they want to go to heaven, because at least heaven has food.”

Pope Leo XIV said, "I am following with deep concern the extremely grave humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is being crushed by hunger and continues to be exposed to violence and death."