**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 21st September 2025**

**Evangelii Gaudium Day: Prayer for the spread of the Gospel**

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

 *(Readings: Page 964) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)*

Friends,

This coming Wednesday (24th September) we keep the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. The story of Walsingham is that the Lady of the Manor, Richeldis, received a vision in a dream to say that she should build a copy of the house of Nazareth in remembrance of the Annunciation – the moment when the Angel Gabriel appears to the young Mary and utters those words which have become so familiar to us as the beginning of one of our favourite and well known  prayers,  **HAIL MARY…….**

This all took place nearly 1000 years ago (1061) in East Anglia in England. An abbey was built and looked after by the Augustinian Canons and this remained until the time of the Reformation (1538). It was a significant place of pilgrimage up until the time of the Reformation but sadly, after the abbey was destroyed, the tradition of pilgrimage was interrupted. In 1896, a lady named Charlotte Pearson Boyd bought a chapel known as the ‘Slipper Chapel’, a small wayside chapel a mile outside Walsingham and restored it for Catholic Liturgy and the first post-reformation pilgrimage to Walsingham took place in August of 1897.

Since then, the shrine at Walsingham has grown and developed greatly and now hosts pilgrim groups from the Roman Catholic tradition, the Orthodox churches and also the Anglican communities.

It is a shrine of the **INCARNATION** – the taking flesh of the Word of God, Jesus, in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  Last week, we had a reading from the Gospel which said, ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son’ (John 3: 13-17) and this is the cause of the thankfulness which we express each and every time the Church celebrates the Mass and indeed all the Sacraments.

We are deeply grateful for the love of God the Father which is made flesh-and-blood reality in the person of Jesus: each day is an opportunity to continue to learn from the wisdom of Jesus’ teaching and put it into practice……….

Have a good Sunday and blessings for the week ahead

Father Philip

**Archdiocese of Liverpool Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage 2026** will take place from 22 to 31 July 2026 which will be the 50th anniversary of the Youth Pilgrimage. Application forms will go online earlier this year on **Monday 15 September 2025** when young people aged 15-22 can apply at [www.liverpoollourdesyouth.co.uk](http://www.liverpoollourdesyouth.co.uk) There is an **Early Bird Discount of £50** for applications received before 9am on 20 October 2025. If you are interested in being part of the Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage and require more information, please email St Mary’s parish office saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk. You can also see posters and flyers at the back of church. The full cost for each young person travelling from Liverpool is £720. Deposit of £100 to be paid on application. As soon as you have applied to go on the pilgrimage please email the parish office so your safeguarding requirements can be processed for the Liverpool Lourdes Youth Leaders.

**Completion of building renovation work in St Mary’s:** The builders have advised that the good summer weather has improved the dryness measurements of the thick exterior gable wall. The readings are sufficient to enable the treatment and painting of the interior wall to the rear of the church. This will require the erection of scaffolding, the treatment and plaster boarding of walls, skimming and painting which will take some time. There may be disruption during weekdays. When the scaffolding is erected in the next few weeks, could parents please supervise their children responsibly while in church.

* **Cheese and Wine and Film Night** will take place on **Saturday 27 September** in the **Columba Club**. This evening is open to Club members and any guests who wish to attend. The film being shown is the comedy set on the Island – Waking Ned. Doors open at 7pm. Film shown at approximately 7.30pm. Tickets £15 available from Brian Murphy, Richard Coase and Sandra Slann.
* **T and Chat** will meet on **7 October 2025** at **St. Anthony’s Pastoral Centre** from **10.30am -12 noon**. The Group is delighted to welcome Dee Newson who will be displaying bonnets made by the IoM branch of the Embroiders Guild and will chat about the history behind them. Everyone will be warmly welcomed; refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie for any further information.
* **A Thanksgiving Mass for Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP** will be celebrated on **Friday 3 October at 7pm** in our Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, giving thanks for his years of service and ministry. All are welcome to attend.
* **St Anthony’s Church Cleaning:** If anyone would like to help with the cleaning of St Anthony’s please let the parish office have your contact email or phone number. We have a reliable and dedicated small group of volunteers who would welcome some additional help. Thank you.
* **The Manx Bible at 250:** A Conference marking the 250th anniversary of the Bible’s publication in Manx will be held in The iMuseum, Kingswood Grove, Douglas from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday 4 October. Free to attend, all welcome, dip in and out as you wish. Light refreshments provided. Please see full programme on poster at the back of church.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 20th September**25th Sunday in Ordinary TimeEvangelii Gaudium Day: Prayer for the spread of the Gospel | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 21st September**25th Sunday in Ordinary TimeEvangelii Gaudium Day: Prayer for the spread of the Gospel | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Bridget Proctor, anniversaryPatrick Joseph Doyle, anniversary |
| **Monday 22nd September** | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 23rd September**St Pius of Pietrelcina | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Peter Cain, recently died |
| **Wednesday 24th September**Our Lady of Walsingham | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Special intention |
| **Thursday 25th September** | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Humberto Molina, deceasedJoan & Brian McBride, anniversary |
| **Friday 26th September**Saints Cosmas and Damian | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | William Smith-Newson, intentions |
| **Saturday 27th September***St Vincent de Paul*26th Sunday in Ordinary TimeDay of Prayer for the Harvest | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 28th September**26th Sunday in Ordinary TimeDay of Prayer for the Harvest  | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Charles Caine, recently diedFrances McCarrick, intentions |