**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 28th September 2025**

**Day of Prayer for the Harvest**

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

 *(Readings: Page 968) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)*

Friends,

The month of October is, in our Catholic devotions, linked with the Rosary and we keep the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Tuesday 7th October. Now the Rosary is a profoundly Christ-centred form of prayer – even if we do reflect upon the ‘mysteries’ or themes of the Rosary through the eyes of Mary, with the repeated prayer ‘Hail Mary full of grace’ . It was Pope John Paul II who added a new set of mysteries to the rosary prayer when in 2002 he suggested that the ‘Mysteries of Light’ be prayed

*Moving from the infancy and the hidden life in Nazareth to the public life of Jesus, our contemplation brings us to those mysteries which may be called in a special way “mysteries of light”. Certainly the whole mystery of Christ is a mystery of light. He is the “light of the world” (Jn 8:12). Yet this truth emerges in a special way during the years of his public life, when he proclaims the Gospel of the Kingdom. In proposing to the Christian community five significant moments – “luminous” mysteries – during this phase of Christ’s life, I think that the following can be fittingly singled out: (1) his Baptism in the Jordan, (2) his self-manifestation at the wedding of Cana, (3) his proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion, (4) his Transfiguration, and finally, (5) his institution of the Eucharist, as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.*

At the General Audience in Saint Peter’s Square in Rome last Wednesday Pope Leo, lamenting the ‘ruins wrought by murderous hatred’ in so many parts of our world today, said “*I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace—personally, in the family, and in community*,”

He invited Christians to share with others “the love of Jesus that illumines and lifts up humanity.”

*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 this coming week, could parents please supervise their children responsibly while in church.

* The **Cheese and Wine and Film Night** scheduled for this **Saturday 27 September** in the Columba Club **has been postponed**. The Club plans to reschedule sometime next month when there is more interest.
* **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.
* **Thanksgiving Mass for Archbishop Malcolm** will be celebrated on **Friday 3 October at 7pm** in our Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool, giving thanks for his years of service and ministry. All welcome.
* The ‘**Warm and Cosy Hub’** will resume on **Monday 6 October** and will run each Monday and Friday from **10am until 2pm** throughout the winter months in the **Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas.** The Club will provide a warm space offering company, refreshments and light lunches to which all are welcome. Thank you to the Knights of St Columba and volunteers who host the Warm and Cosy Hub.
* **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.
* **Island Spirituality Network:** Next meeting on **11 October** at **St. John’s Mill** from **10am to 1pm**. The speaker will be **Revd David Smith** whose theme will be “God and Mammon”. The session will focus on Jesus’ statement concerning the impossibility of worshipping God and Mammon.All welcome.
* **Invitation from Michael Manning, 8th Manx Bard,** to a free poetry and music concert to launch the release of his book, ***Graih: Prophetic-Utopian Poems****,*on **Saturday 8th November** at 7.30pm at Broadway Baptist Church, Douglas. Guests include Annie Kissack, Phil Gawne and Adele Harris. Culture Vannin are supporting the publication. All welcome. Tea and Cake provided. See poster in church.
* **The Ann Fox Foundation** supports the Liver Transplant Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in

Birmingham as a partner hospital of Nobles Hospital providing medical and surgical intervention for

IOM patients requiring treatment or transplant for liver disease. Their **Annual Gala Ball** will be held on **22nd November 2025** at the **Empress Hotel 7pm – late.** 5 course Meal and entertainment from Local Duo Brown Sugar and sprinkling a little Robbie Wiliams Magic will be Mike Andrew as Robbie. Officially endorsed by Robbie Williams and currently touring in Australia, Robbie himself said 'I don’t know where he starts and I end'. For tickets, please contact Tony Fox, 493398, Andrea Gilmore, 401548 or Stephen Fox on 497993. Tickets are £75.00 each. There are a few tables left. Tables seat 10 - 13 people.

* **Living Faith booklet:** Apology from the suppliers for delay in delivery of the October-December edition. The batch has been held up at a USA Port. They hope we will receive the booklets by mid-October.
* **CAFOD Harvest Fast Day** on Friday 3 October. CAFOD envelopes are available 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 27th September**26th Sunday in Ordinary TimeDay of Prayer for the Harvest | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | 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 |
| **Monday 29th September**Sts Michael, Gabriel and Raphael | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 30th September**St Jerome | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Bridget Gaffey, anniversary |
| **Wednesday 1st October**St Thérèse of Lisieux | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Felixberto Rosales, 2nd anniversary |
| **Thursday 2nd October**The Holy Guardian Angels | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Veronica Stackhouse & Monica BersinRose & William Keenan, anniversary |
| **Friday 3rd October**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day  | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Mike Shimmin, 4th anniversary |
| **Saturday 4th October***St Francis of Assisi*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time | *No Confessions*5.00pm | St Mary’s | *No Exposition or Confessions today (Work in church)*Sean Nash and all the Nash family |
| **Sunday 5th October**27th Sunday in Ordinary TimeCAFOD Day of prayer for justice and peace in the world  | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | People of our ParishesCaridad Rosales, deceased |