**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 14th September 2025**

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

 *(Readings: Page 1062) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)*

Friends,

First of all may I thank you for your warm welcome last weekend! It is indeed lovely and a great blessing to be part once again of such vibrant and faithful Communities and I look forward to deepening our work together for the values and virtues of the Kingdom of God.

As you will no doubt appreciate, the early weeks in any new household are full of ‘firsts’ – both local and national! the first visit to the School, the ‘signing-up’ as Hospital and Hospice chaplain…. and even such practicalities as getting the car registered and insured on the Island! I was also able to meet with the other Leaders of churches and Christian Communities on the Island at a meeting of CAIM (Churches alive in Mann) which took place at The Mill at St. John’s last week: as Archbishop John said when he was here in June, the work of ecumenical friendship and Christian witness is one which must feature high on our **to do** list!

The Prayer Cycle of our Catholic tradition sees this period from early September through until 4th October (The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) as a **SEASON OF CREATION**. It is a period when, very deliberately and consciously, we think about not taking for granted the gifts of creation around us – and that includes the very food that we eat. Somewhere along the line all is, as the prayers at Mass put it, **fruit of the earth and the work of human hands.**

As we enter now into the Autumn months and the time for the HARVEST FESTIVAL we are invited to be ever more sensitive to the needs of others who do not have the food they need each day – and that is why the work of the FOODBANK and food donation points in the major shops is so important. Perhaps also on a smaller, domestic level, we can make sure that we give thanks for our food using the Grace before and after meals:

*Before eating: Bless us O Lord and these your gifts which we are about to receive, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*After eating: We give you thanks, Almighty God, for these and all your benefits which we have received, through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

**A Communion Prayer**

Most High glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart. Grant me an upright faith, secure hope and perfect charity. Fill me with understanding and knowledge that I may fulfil your command. Amen.

*(Saint Francis of Assisi)*

Canon Philip

* **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. 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 and Marie Radcliffe 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.
* **Mary’s Meals** announce the wonderful milestone that they have reached 3 million children with daily school meals. Archbishop John will celebrate Mass for the work of Mary’s Meals at 3pm on Sunday 21 September at St Teresa’s Church, Upholland.
* **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 13th September**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 14th September**24th Sunday in Ordinary Time*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross* | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Eileen & John Jawczak, anniversaryJames Stack, anniversary |
| **Monday 15th September**Our Lady of Sorrows | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 16th September**St Cornelius & St Cyprian | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Sister Christine Wood, sick |
| **Wednesday 17th September**St Robert BellarmineSt Hildegard of Bingen | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Stephen Lowther, sick |
| **Thursday 18th September** | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Paschal O’Grady, recently diedBaby Smith, unborn |
| **Friday 19th September**St JanuariusSt Theodore of Canterbury | ***9.30am*** 12.10pm | ***School***St Mary’s | ***Mass for Beginning of School Term*** Denis Newson, deceased |
| **Saturday 20th September**25th Sunday in Ordinary TimeEvangelii Gaudium Day: Prayer for the spread of the Gospel | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions 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 |

**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.