



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

1st Sunday of Advent, 30th November 2025

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays)

(Readings: Page 5) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)

From the Presbytery desk.....

Advent Charity

In the Lenten Season we often have 'lenten alms' which will go to support a recognised charitable purpose; it is good to do this also in Advent and Christmastide. There are so many different charities and good causes we can - and already do - support – the list of the needs in our local communities and across the world appear endless! It often appears that we can do little with our little resources..... but remember the gospel story of the feeding of the five thousand!!

This year I would suggest that we think about, pray for, and act positively on behalf of the Christian community in the Holy Land. We will, in these coming weeks, hear much about places like Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem – but the Christian communities living there often find it difficult to thrive because of a multitude of pressures laid on them.

That is where **FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND** seeks to help and support the Christian presence in the lands where Christ was born, where he walked and preached, and ultimately where he suffered, died and rose from the dead.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Christians made up roughly 29% of the overall population of the Holy Land. Today they account for less than 2%. Those remaining face such difficult conditions that many will be forced to leave their homes. Soon this dwindling community may cease to exist at all without our help. This fact, little recognised by Christians around the world, is what drives their vision.

FHL provides practical assistance with everyday living costs. They help people access healthcare and education; and to start and grow businesses. At this time they are also providing humanitarian aid to those suffering in the current conflict and violence.

At the very heart of what they do every day is to provide opportunity and hope. They are a community of Christians united in supporting our brothers and sisters in the birthplace of our faith.

Friends of the Holy Land embraces and supports all Christians in the Holy Land. We connect them to a worldwide community of Christians and people of good will who care.

By supporting them, we will be joining a community of Christians united in support of our brothers and sisters in the birthplace of our faith, helping them to remain and thrive. From our heart to the heart of Christianity.

For further information see www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk

Canon Philip

- Archbishop Malcolm McMahon's Episcopal Silver Jubilee Mass will be celebrated in the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool on Saturday 6 December at 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: Children attending St Mary's Catholic Primary School are being prepared for First Holy Communion as part of the school's RE curriculum. The school liaises with parents directly on arrangements. Parents and Guardians of **Year 4 children living in our parishes who attend other non-Catholic schools who wish to make their First Holy Communion in 2026 are required to register their names by e-mail with the parish office** saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk. They will then receive an application form followed by an invitation to attend evening

classes at St Anthony's, Onchan. Six sessions of preparation are required, taking place next Spring. Thank you to our parish catechists who lead the preparation course.

- **Blessing of the Crib at the Columba Club:** This short service will take place at **3pm on this Saturday 29 November** at the Columba Club when the Advent figures will be placed in the Crib. The service will be accompanied by members of the Manx Youth Band. Doors will open at 2.40pm. After the service mulled wine, soft drinks, tea/coffee and mince pies will be served. All welcome.
- **T & Chat** will meet on **2 December 2025** at **St. Anthony's Pastoral Centre from 10.30am – 12noon**. The Group is delighted to welcome back Onchan School Choir who will entertain with carols and songs to lead us into the festive season. Please come along. Everyone will be warmly welcomed, refreshments served. For any information, please contact Josie on 406063.
- **St. Anthony's SVP Christmas Party** for parishioners will be held on **Saturday 6 December** from **2-4 pm** in St. Anthony's Pastoral Centre. All welcome. For catering purposes, if you wish to attend, please add your names to the lists at St. Mary's and St. Anthony's churches.
- **The Tallis Consort** presents "**Gaude**" – A concert of choral music celebrating Christmas from the 16th Century to the present day – on **Monday 8 December** at **7.30pm** at **St. Mary's**. Admission is free. All welcome.
- **Advent Ecumenical Course in St Peter's Church, Onchan** will continue at **7pm on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December**. Short videos presented by Anglican Bishop Tricia Hillas will be shown each week on ancient Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Everyone welcome. Please see the poster at the back of church.
- Scripture Union Ministries Trust (SUMT) will host a **Carols and Chips** evening on **Saturday 6 December** from **5.30-7pm** at **St. Ninian's Church, Douglas**. Cost £10 for adults, £5 for children or £25 for a family. See poster at the back of church for booking information.
- The '**Warm and Cosy Hub**' continues **each Monday and Friday** from **10am until 2pm** throughout the winter months in the **Columba Club, Circular Road, Douglas**.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 29th November			
First Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ann Fox, deceased
Sunday 30th November			
First Sunday of Advent	9.30am	St Anthony's	Brenda Park, anniversary
	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Monday 1st December			
Martyrs of the Venerable English College, Rome	<i>No Mass today</i>		<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
Tuesday 2nd December			
	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
	12.10pm	St Mary's	Sandra Finnegan, 1 st anniversary
Wednesday 3rd December			
	12.10pm	St Mary's	Mary Magdalene Anil, 3 rd birthday
Thursday 4th December			
	10.00am	St Anthony's	Peter Denver, anniversary
	12.10pm	St Mary's	Annette McClure, birthday anniversary
Friday 5th December			
	12.10pm	St Mary's	Thomas & Mary Hardinge, anniversary
	7.00pm	St Anthony's	Anna Adamiak, recently died
Saturday 6th December			
Second Sunday of Advent	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
	5.00pm	St Mary's	Douglas Wheeler & Eamon McNally, anniversaries
Sunday 7th December			
Second Sunday of Advent	9.30am	St Anthony's	Rosa & Cesare Leonetti, anniversary
	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

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 are online at www.liverpoolLOURDESyouth.co.uk for young people aged 15-22. Deposit of £100 to be paid on application. When registered, please email the parish office saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk so your safeguarding requirements can be processed for the Liverpool Youth Leaders.

