



NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas

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2nd Sunday of Advent, 7th December 2025

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays)

(Readings: Page 9) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)

From the Presbytery desk.....

ADVENT, our 'Purple Days' which lead up to Christmas and The Christmas Season, are special days of preparation and expectation - but they do sometimes run the risk of being swallowed up in the rush to 'get things in' for December 25th and the celebration of the civil new Year on January 1st! That is not to say that we should turn our back on the more practical concerns of gifts and food shopping – we keep these days of Christmas Season as a rich time when we share good things with family, friends and loved ones – not forgetting of course those who may have no-one with whom they can share the days, those for whom the turkey, or pudding (and even the brussel sprouts !) are beyond their means to put on their table.

The work of the SVP, the FoodBank and the good Samaritans of our day are as much in demand – if not more so – at this time of the Year.

However spare a thought for Advent! This is the Season of the Church's year in which we find ourselves at the moment. It is a time when the Church looks forward to the glorious second coming of the Lord (He is the *adventus*, the one who is to come) and only from the 17th of the month do we move to readings and prayers in the Liturgy which speak of stars or stables or shepherds.

It is a delicate balancing act – a combination of PAST (what happened in Bethlehem those 2000 years ago). PRESENT (I am experiencing this in the year 2025 with all its joys and hopes as well as pains and worries) and FUTURE (I am looking forward to that Day when all will be fulfilled and brought to perfection in the Second Coming of Christ).

Each year we may find ourselves laying greater emphasis on a particular aspect or indeed character of the Christmas Story: it is worth giving ourselves that little bit of peace, that little space to reflect on these great events.....

Happy Preparation – and Happy Feasts when they arrive with us!

The crib outside the Columba Club is seen by many who are walking or driving up Prospect Hill. Thank you for this good witness to the content of our Advent and Christmas journey. Keep an eye out for the Columba Club Crib when you are next in that area.....

The Columba Club will host a Christmas Party for members and friends on **Friday, 12th December** from **7.00pm - 11.00pm**. There is no charge for admission, but the evening will be on a faith supper basis where all who attend are invited to bring a dish to share – main course or pudding. A raffle will be held (raising funds for the Club) for which donations are welcome. Tickets are not required but it would be helpful if those planning to attend could advise Richard Coase: email coase@craigard.uk or text 487057.

Advent Reconciliation

While we continue as always with the Saturday morning (11am to Midday) availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) at Saint Mary in Douglas, the Catholic Communities on the Island are also offering evening services where 2 or 3 priests will be available for Confessions;

- Tuesday 16th December 7pm - Star of the Sea, Ramsey
- Thursday 18th December 7pm - Saint Columba, Port Erin
- Friday 19th December 7pm - Saint Anthony of Padua, Onchan

Canon Philip

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.

- **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 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.
- 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 6th December Second Sunday of Advent	5.00pm	St Mary's	Douglas Wheeler & Eamon M ^c Nally, anniversaries
Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Rosa & Cesare Leonetti, anniversary People of our Parishes
Monday 8th December <i>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>No Mass today</i> 7.30pm	<i></i> St Mary's	<i>No Mass or Service today</i> Tallis Consort Concert – "Gaude"
Tuesday 9th December St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Ann Higgins, recently died
Wednesday 10th December Our Lady of Loreto	12.10pm	St Mary's	Regina Manley, recently died
Thursday 11th December St Damasus I	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Mike Campbell, recently died Mary Kate Sweeney, recently died
Friday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	12.10pm	St Mary's	In Thanksgiving
Saturday 13th December St Lucy	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
Third Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Mary Judge, recently died
Sunday 14th December Third Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Patrick & Mary Reaney, 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 are online at www.liverpool Lourdes youth.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.

Friends of the Holy Land prayer: God of grace, whose Son Jesus Christ took our human nature to redeem us from the power of sin and death; grant us, whom you have brought into the fellowship of his body, the courage and the will to overcome evil with good, oppression with justice, violence with steadfastness, and despair with hope, that the land in which you spoke through the Prophets and revealed yourself in Christ may know your peace, and all your people do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before you, their true and living God. Amen.