

NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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2nd Sunday after the Nativity, 4th January 2026
(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays)
(Readings: Page 55)
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From the Presbytery desk.....

We are having absolutely beautiful celebrations of the Christmas Season and I reiterate my sincere thanks to all who so kindly and generously gave of their time and abilities to decorate our churches so beautifully and ensure that our Liturgies were celebrated with care and dignity. My sincere thanks personally to all who gave me their good wishes, cards and gifts: you are very kind and thoughtful and I appreciate it greatly.

This weekend we still have with us Father Marco Settembrini from the Archdiocese of Bologna (Italy). He has been with me for a few days to be introduced to the delights of Island Life! Father Marco taught Old Testament at the Beda College Seminary in Rome when Father Philip was Rector.

In the coming week.... Tuesday is the solemnity of the **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** and is a Holyday of Obligation. To enable as many as possible to participate at Mass on that day we will alter the Mass timetable slightly:

Tuesday 6th January 10am Saint Anthony at Onchan
 12 noon Saint Mary, Douglas
 7pm Saint Mary, Douglas

On Thursday, 8th January, the 10am at Onchan will not be Mass but a Service of Word and Communion.

On Saturday 10 January at St John's Mill, 10am-1pm, Father Philip will be the guest speaker at the Island Spirituality Network Meeting at St. John's Mill. His theme will be "There and back again – The Jubilee Year as Pilgrims into Hope". The Jubilee Year 2025, proclaimed by Pope Francis, has just ended and its themes emphasized the journey of faith, spiritual renewal and forgiveness amidst global suffering from war, poverty, and crises, rooted in biblical tradition of debt relief and liberation, with a focus on peace, debt cancellation, and sharing faith. All welcome.

Next Saturday (10th January) there will be **NO CONFESSIONS** at 11am in Saint Mary, Douglas.

Canon Philip

- **T and Chat** will meet on **Tuesday 6th January 2026** from **10.30am to 12 noon** at St. Anthony's Pastoral Centre. The Group is delighted to welcome Bill and Roseanna Dale from Beach Buddies. Everyone will be warmly welcomed and refreshments will be served. For further information please contact Josie on 406063.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School: Parents/Grandparents who have, or know of any, children due to start school in September 2026 are requested to register them at St. Mary's School before January 2026. Children living anywhere on the Island who are baptised in the Catholic church are eligible to attend our school. Parents who have any questions or queries are invited to contact the school headteacher at StMarysEnquiries@sch.im or by 'phoning the school on 673807.

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.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 3rd January 2026 2 nd Sunday after the Nativity	5.00pm	St Mary's	Noel Cowin, recently died
Sunday 4th January 2026 2 nd Sunday after the Nativity	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Stephen Craig, 35 th anniversary People of our Parishes
Monday 5th January 2026	<i>No Mass today</i>		<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
Tuesday 6th January 2026 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (Holyday)	10.00am 12.00 noon 7.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Mary's	Sister Madeline Maher, sick William Murray, anniversary Darryl Doherty, deceased
Wednesday 7th January 2026 St Raymond of Penyafort	12.10pm	St Mary's	Hazel Smith, 7 th anniversary
Thursday 8th January 2026	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Eucharistic Service Frances & Daniel Tynan, deceased
Friday 9th January 2026	12.00 noon	St Mary's	<i>Requiem Mass: Anne Patricia Craige</i>
Saturday 10th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord	5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	<i>No Confessions or Exposition today</i> People of our Parishes
Sunday 11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Bob & Josie Lees, anniversary David Corkill, 10 th anniversary

The Epiphany Blessing

In these next days you may see the following in car or house windows – or on the walls of houses written in chalk.

20 * C+M+B * 26

What does it mean? Well tradition has it that it is a visualisation of an Epiphany prayer of blessing – asking God's guidance for the coming year. CMB are the first letters of the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*..... May Christ bless this household.

Other will have it that it is the names of the three wise men of the Gospels who travel far to find Jesus.... Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

Either way, it is a lovely tradition to maintain.....
