

NEWSLETTER

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

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2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 18th January 2026

Peace Sunday

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays)

(Readings: Page 81)

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From the Presbytery desk.....

Hot on the heels of the Jubilee Year of Hope comes another special year of prayer and reflection... that of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis died on October 3rd 1226 and so this year – the 800th anniversary of his death – Pope Leo encourages us to get to know better the character of Francis from Assisi in Italy – who may have lived distant from us in chronology but is very close to us in his life choices, his challenges and his call to everyday holiness!

Francis is a fascinating and engaging character, perhaps known to many of us through the words of his prayer for peace, made familiar through the hymn composed by Sebastian Temple:

Make me a channel of your peace.

*where there is hatred let me bring your love;
where there is injury your pardon, Lord;
and where there's doubt true faith in you.*

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.

*where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.*

Make me a channel of your peace.

*it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
in giving of ourselves that we receive;
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

Over the next weeks we will look at certain aspects of Francis' spirituality which may be of assistance and support to us in our 21st century world....after all the virtues of peace and understanding, pardon and love are universal and span the generations.....

We now enter into the GREEN SEASON sometimes called the Ordinary Time of the Year. Ordinary not in the sense of nothing much happening but Ordinary in the sense of ORDINAL... the counting Season. Today we celebrate the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time... the first Sunday was in fact last Sunday which was also the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It was as if last Sunday was the hinge which united the two seasons: it was the conclusion of the Christmas Season **AND** the beginning of the Ordinary Season. We now count 5 Sundays until the beginning of the Lenten Season on Wednesday 18th February.

Renewed thanks to all those who worked diligently and prayerfully to ensure that our churches were beautifully decorated for the celebration of the Christmas Feasts and our liturgy was enhanced and supported by music and singing – not forgetting those who Proclaimed our Readings and Ministered the Holy Eucharist, both in Church and in visits to the housebound.

Once again, many thanks for the personal cards, greetings and gifts which you very generously shared with me. I am immensely grateful!

I hope the celebration of the various Feasts of the Christmas Season both encouraged and strengthened us in our continued faithfulness to Christ.

As you may have noticed, the work on the back wall and choir loft at Saint Mary's church is coming to its close and the scaffolding can, thankfully, now be taken down. Care of our buildings is just one aspect of the day in day out ministry in the parishes – and I am grateful to Father John who began this important work at Douglas as well as to those who very generously have given of their time, abilities and resources to achieve such a happy outcome!

Canon Philip

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.

- **Warm and Cozy Hub** in the Columba Club is now open on **Mondays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm**. Come along for a warm welcome, soup and a friendly chat.
- The **Columba Club** is holding a **Film Night on Friday 30th January, doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm start**. Showing the dark comedy, Keeping Mum which was filmed on the Island and has Rowan Atkinson, Patrick Swayze and Maggie Smith among its cast. Admission free.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

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| Saturday 17th January 2026 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Peace Sunday</i> | 5.00pm | St Mary's | Ellen & John O'Gorman, anniversary |
| Sunday 18th January 2026 2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Peace Sunday</i> <i>Week of prayer for Christian Unity</i> | 9.30am 11.00am | St Anthony's St Mary's | Craig Dorrian, 10 th anniversary People of our Parishes |
| Monday 19th January 2026 St Wulstan | <i>No Mass today</i> | St Mary's | <i>No Mass or service today</i> |
| Tuesday 20th January 2026 St Fabian, St Sebastian | 10.00am 12.10pm | St Anthony's St Mary's | <i>Eucharistic Service</i> Eileen & Patrick Kerr, anniversary |
| Wednesday 21st January 2026 St Agnes | 12.10pm | St Mary's | Brenda McCabe, sick |
| Thursday 22nd January 2026 St Vincent | 10.00am 12.10pm | St Anthony's St Mary's | Mary Shimmin, recently died Jim Wall, deceased |
| Friday 23rd January 2026 | 12.10pm 1.15pm | St Mary's Douglas Crematorium | John Caroon, recently died Funeral Service: Dorothy Peet |
| Saturday 24th January 2026 St Francis de Sales 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> | 11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm | St Mary's | Exposition and Confessions Stephen Simpson, anniversary |
| Sunday 25th January 2026 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i> | 9.30am 11.00am | St Anthony's St Mary's | People of our Parishes Paddy & Mary McCaffrey, anniversary |