

NEWSLETTER

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

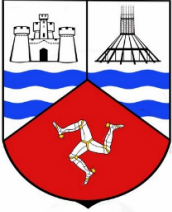
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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 25th January 2026

Sunday of the Word of God

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays; Psalter Week 3)

(Readings: Page 84) (Page 449 for Order of the Mass)



From the Presbytery desk.....

Buona Domenica – have a good Sunday!

This greeting will often be heard in Rome and indeed recent Popes, including our present Holy Father, will often begin or end the Angelus Prayer at Midday on a Sunday in St Peter's Square with this greeting.

It is more than just a passing phrase: it speaks of the fact that the Sunday, the Lord's Day, the day of the discovery of the empty tomb, is for us as Christians the foundation of our weekly living – and indeed in the Church calendar the First Day of the Week is the Sunday, not the Monday ! Our coming together for Mass on the Lord's day 'launches' us into the rest of the week.

When we take to our hearts - and to our vision of daily living -the fact of the Resurrection and the promise of the Lord that he will be with us ALWAYS UNTIL THE END OF THE DAYS (Matthew 28:20) then each day can be transformed from being merely a constant repetition of the same old things to a daily opportunity to learn new things – about ourselves, about others and ultimately about God, Father Son and Holy Spirit.

That doesn't mean that we won't have our bad and low days – we all do, at some point. Winston Churchill apparently used to refer to them as his 'black dog' days! What it does mean however is that we can rely on the faithfulness of the Lord that he is with us even in those down days.... the document Gaudium et Spes of the Second Vatican Council said that the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of people were embraced not only the Lord but also by His Church

The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in our hearts. For ours is a community composed of men and women. United in Christ, we are led by the Holy Spirit in their journey to the Kingdom of their Father and we have welcomed the news of salvation which is meant for every individual.

I was reminded of these words when I read that last Monday, 19th January, was know as 'Blue Monday' – the most depressing day of the year! Don't worry if you missed it..... there will be another one around next year.!! Apparently Blue Monday was so named because of a notional concept that the third Monday of January is the most depressing day of the year, being cold, a long time since Christmas and with New Year Resolutions being broken.

Now of course we should all look after both our physical, mental and spiritual health (it is part of being good 'stewards' of the precious gift of life which God has given to us)..... but the Good News is that the promise of the Lord ' I am with you always' covers even the bluest of blue days.

Buona Domenica – have a good Sunday and a good week ahead!

Pope Francis designated today, the third Sunday of Ordinary Time, as 'Bible Sunday' intending it as a reminder to us of the fundamental importance to us of the Holy Scriptures... that is why we are encouraged to read the Bible on our own and with others, to listen to the Readings at Mass and to reflect upon the impact which God's Revelation has on our daily lives **TODAY**. There is always the temptation to think that the Bible is merely a historical record of what ONCE happened, rather than seeing it as an invitation to deepen our relationship with God in the here and now. Archbishop John shares with us a reflection on this day.....

As we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God, we give thanks for the priceless gift of Sacred Scripture—the living Word through which God continues to speak to His people. The Bible is not merely a book of the past; it is the voice of God for today, alive and active, capable of shaping our hearts, guiding our choices, and renewing our hope. In the Scriptures, God draws near to us. He comforts the weary, challenges the

complacent, corrects our paths, and reveals His endless mercy. When we listen attentively to the Word, we encounter Christ Himself, for He is the Word made flesh. To know the Scriptures is to know Christ more deeply. We offer this resource as a way of renewing our commitment to making the Word of God central in our lives, and particularly for those throughout the Archdiocese who minister the word in our communities. We hear in **Evangelii Gaudium**: 'The study of the Sacred Scriptures must be a door opened to every believer. It is essential that the revealed word radically enrich our catechesis and all our efforts to pass on the faith. Evangelization demands familiarity with God's word, which calls for dioceses, parishes and Catholic associations to provide for a serious, ongoing study of the Bible, while encouraging its prayerful individual and communal reading. We do not blindly seek God, or wait for him to speak to us first, for "God has already spoken, and there is nothing further that we need to know, which has not been revealed to us". Let us receive the sublime treasure of the revealed word'. #175

+ John Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool

Canon Philip

- **Warm and Cosy Hub** in the Columba Club is open on **Mondays and Fridays** from **10am until 2pm**. Come along for a warm welcome, soup, refreshments and a friendly chat.
- **T & Chat** will meet on **Tuesday 3/2/2026** from 10.30am -12 noon at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone will be warmly welcomed; refreshments served. Please contact Josie on 406063 for further information.
- 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.

Saturday 24th January 2026 3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Sunday of the Word of God</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	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
Monday 26th January 2026 Saints Timothy and Titus	<i>No Mass today</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>No Mass or service today</i>
Tuesday 27th January 2026 St Angela Merici Holocaust Memorial Day	10.00am 12.10pm	<i>St Anthony's</i> St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Larry & Lily McCabe, deceased
Wednesday 28th January 2026 St Thomas Aquinas	12.10pm 2.00pm	St Mary's St Anthony's	Derek Kenna, deceased Funeral Service: Tony Simpson
Thursday 29th January 2026	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Anna Yates, 100 th birthday Cath Hannah, birthday
Friday 30th January 2026	11.30am 12.10pm	Crematorium St Mary's	Funeral Service: Judith Anne Lynch Mary Barratt, 2 nd anniversary
Saturday 31st January 2026 St John Bosco	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Fr. Brian Dougherty, deceased
Sunday 1st February 2026 4 th Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Racial Justice Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Shirley Savage, anniversary