



## NEWSLETTER

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

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### The Baptism of the Lord, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays)

(Readings: Page 65)

(Page 449 for Order of the Mass)

From the Presbytery desk.....

Now that we have had our first dusting of snow it seems appropriate to say that if any of our elderly or vulnerable members of the congregation think that weather conditions – snow, ice, strong winds or heavy rain mean that it is unwise to venture out for Mass on a Sunday or indeed a weekday – please stay in the safety of your homes! If you have internet access then you can participate remotely in the Masses from Douglas. If you do not, ask a friend or neighbour to bring you a weekly bulletin. As one of the TV characters says.... “Mind how you go”!

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The Feast of Christmas Day last year (2025!) ushered in a whole Season of Christmas Feasts... and on 1<sup>st</sup> January this year we kept the Feast of the Mother of God and a day of particular prayer for world peace. In the Mass each day we pray for peace in that lovely prayer before the receiving of the Lord in Holy Communion:

*Deliver us, Lord, we pray for every evil, graciously grant PEACE in our days that by the help of your mercy we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict or violence but is a state of living where we acknowledge the source and origin of all things and entrust ourselves to the providence and care of God the Father knowing that, as Saint Paul says, ‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’ (Romans 8:28). It is therefore well suited that the first day of the new calendar year should be dedicated to The Blessed Virgin – she was the one who, embracing the message of the Angel Gabriel, declared herself to be ‘the Handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to your Word’. (Luke 1: 38). When Pope Leo was leaving Lebanon a couple of weeks ago at the end of his Apostolic Visit he said:

***In embracing all of you, I express my aspiration for peace, along with a heartfelt appeal: may the attacks and hostilities cease. We must recognize that armed struggle brings no benefit. While weapons are lethal, negotiation, mediation and dialogue are constructive. Let us all choose peace as a way, and not just as a goal!***

What might be our Resolution for this year which opens out before us? Well to be peace builders, peace makers perhaps not on the world-wide stage of international politics but on the smaller, more homely but none the less fundamental stage of our daily living. Peace goes hand in hand with justice, and justice needs to go hand in hand with mercy and compassion..... good resolutions which can be applied to us all. Happy January!

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](mailto:StMarysEnquiries@sch.im) or by 'phoning the school on 673807.

- **Warm and Cozy Hub** in the Columba Club has now **re - opened 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.*

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>			
<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Bob & Josie Lees, anniversary
<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	11.00am	St Mary's	David Corkill, 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> St Aelred of Rievaulx	<b>10.00am</b> <i>No Mass today</i>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Funeral Service: Christine Moran</b> <i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> St Hilary	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Eucharistic Service Bernadette O'Connor, recently died
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> St Kentigern	12.10pm	St Mary's	Marie Picorie, recently died
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Ramon Go, anniversary Tobin family, intentions
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Wendy Reed & Angela Dean, anniversary
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> St Anthony	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time <i>Peace Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ellen & John O'Gorman, anniversary
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> anniversary People of our Parishes

As the number of people joining the Catholic Church in England and Wales continues to rise, the Archdiocese of Southwark is launching a landmark apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to the burning questions of both new and practicing Catholics. The project, named '*Ambassadors for Christ*', is the first of its kind in a Catholic diocese in England and Wales, and is designed to equip the faithful with a deeper understanding of their faith. The project will consist of 52 videos, posted every Monday on YouTube in 2026. Each video will follow a similar format:

**Objection/Question:** It begins with a common objection, question, or myth.

**Scripture:** The issue is first looked at through Scripture, drawing on solid biblical teaching.

**Church Fathers:** To provide a historical understanding and demonstrate the Church's link to the apostles, each video will then draw on the teaching of the Church Fathers.

**Church Teaching:** The final part of the video will highlight Church teaching on the subject, drawing on papal and Church documents, as well as quotes from Saints.

The bitesize videos are perfect for those seeking answers but are unsure where to start. Further study guides will be provided throughout the project, including where people can go to find out more about their questions.

For more information and to sign up visit: [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/ambassadors-for-christ/](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/ambassadors-for-christ/)

See an introduction by Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgHKRYhT9K8&t=187s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgHKRYhT9K8&t=187s)