

NEWSLETTER

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

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Deanery Website www.manxcatholic.org; Archdiocesan website www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 23rd August 2026

(Year A for Sundays; Cycle 2 for weekdays; Psalter Week 4)

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From the Presbytery desk.....

On Monday 7th September and Tuesday 8th September we have the great joy of welcoming to the Island relics of Saint Gerard Majella: Masses will be celebrated after which there will be the opportunity to venerate the relics.

Monday 7th September - 7.00pm Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Maughold, Ramsey

Tuesday 8th September - 10.00am Saint Columba, Port Erin

- 12.10pm Saint Mary of the Isle, Douglas

- 7.00pm Saint Anthony of Padua, Onchan.

Saint Gerard was a young Redemptorist Lay Brother from Italy who was born in 1726 and who died in 1755 at the early age of 29. During his life, Gerard developed a close bond with the Neapolitan peasant community. In his work with the Redemptorist community, he was variously a gardener, sacristan, tailor, porter, cook, carpenter and clerk of works on the new buildings. He is invoked as patron Saint for the unborn children, expectant mothers and women in childbirth.

On 23rd August 1910, the church of Saint Mary of the Isle in Douglas was consecrated. Although it opened on 4th August 1859, it was not until 50 years later, when building works had been completed and the debt had been paid off, that the church was formally consecrated by the then Bishop of Liverpool, Thomas Whiteside. So this is the 116th Anniversary of the Consecration of Saint Mary's Church in Douglas – happy Anniversary! It also means that this year is the 116th Anniversary of the 'new' church at Ramsey which was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott (he of the K2 red telephone box fame). 1910 was a busy year for the Catholic Community on the Island!!

As last week for the Solemnity of the Assumption, so on this anniversary of the Consecration of the church, it is the PREFACE to the Eucharistic Prayer which gives us a 'potted theology' of what a church building means for us: far more than just bricks and mortar

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

***For in this visible house that you have let us build
and where you never cease to show favour to the family on pilgrimage to you in this place,
you wonderfully manifest and accomplish the mystery of your communion with us.***

***Here you build up for yourself the temple that we are and cause your Church,
spread through the world, to grow ever more and more as the Lord's own Body,
till she reaches her fullness in the vision of peace, the heavenly city of Jerusalem.***

***And so, with the countless ranks of the blessed, in the temple of your glory we praise you,
we bless you and proclaim your greatness, as we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.....***

Mass Intentions. At Douglas and Onchan we receive many Mass Intention requests and – as we no longer have Canon Brendan or Father Brian Dougherty with whom we can share these Intentions, it can sometimes be a long time before we can allocate a daily or Sunday Mass. I am wondering whether people would mind if the Intentions were shared with Ramsey/Peel or Castletown/Port Erin so that, while the Masses would still be celebrated here on the Island it might be elsewhere than Douglas or Onchan? Those who have access to the Deanery Website would still be able to see where the Intention was to be celebrated.

If people would be content with this, please say so on the Mass Intention Envelope which you fill in. Thank you.

Father Philip will be leading the evening service at the ancient chapel of Saint Adamnan (just outside Baldrine) at 7.30pm on Wednesday 26th August. All welcome!

Canon Philip

Invitation from Fr Joseph Kiganda to Celebration of Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi at St Columba's Church, Port Erin
2026 is a Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. This has particular significance for our parish of St Mary and St Columba. Around 1373, the Franciscan Friars Minor established Bymacan Friary in Arbory, within the bounds of our present parish, and served the people of the south of the Isle of Man until the dissolution in 1540. Their legacy remains an important part of our spiritual heritage.

To help mark this special occasion, we have invited Fr Maximilian Martin, OFM Conv. to the Isle of Man. As part of the visit, he will be doing a talk to the Christian communities on the Island. The talk will be in two parts of around 45 minutes each, with a short tea/coffee break between them, covering:

1. Caring for Creation, Promotion of Peace, and Serving the Poor. A reflection on the heart of Franciscan mission and its relevance for Christian discipleship today.
2. The Relevance of Franciscan Spirituality in the Modern World. How the charism of St Francis continues to speak powerfully to contemporary society and to the life of the Church.

10.00am on Saturday 26th September 2026 at St. Columba's Church, Port Erin

You and your congregations are cordially invited to join us for this talk. If possible, it would be useful to know approximate numbers likely to attend. Please advise attendance via the details below:-

Fr. Joseph M. Kiganda, CSSp, Parish Priest, St. Mary's, Castletown and St. Columba's, Port Erin, 24 Bowling Green Road, Castletown, Isle of Man, IM9 1EB; email: stmarycastletown@rcaol.org.uk; Telephone: 01624 822272

Who is Father Maximilian Martin?

Fr. Maximilian Martin, OFM Conv. is the serving Custos (Major Superior) of the Greyfriars in Great Britain and Ireland. He is currently living in the Liverpool Convent of Greyfriars. Fr. Maximilian, who also ministers to the Secular Franciscans, has a passion for the life and spirituality of St. Francis, and his particular area of interest includes the interface of the Franciscan charism with Catholic Social Teaching and the care for creation. Fr. Maximilian's hobbies include music, cooking, reading and long walks. A much-loved brother in his community, Fr. Maximilian teaches with an engaging style, and he brings to all of his presentations the warmth, joy and humanity so associated with the Seraphic Father Saint Francis.

T & Chat will meet on **Tuesday 1 September** at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre from 10.30am until 12 noon. Cilla Platt from IOM Beekeepers will join the group to give an insight into beekeeping. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments served. Please contact Josie on 406063 for further information.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 22nd August 2026			
21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Margaret Cullinane, anniversary
Sunday 23rd August 2026	9.30am	St Anthony's	Ken Hargate, deceased
21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Solemnity of Dedication of Co-Cathedral of St Mary of the Isle			
Monday 24th August 2026	<i>No Mass today</i>	<i>St Mary's</i>	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
St Bartholomew			
Tuesday 25th August 2026	10.00am	St Anthony's	Eucharistic Service
St Edmund Arrowsmith	12.00 noon	St Mary's	Requiem Mass: Peggy Crerar
Wednesday 26th August 2026			
Blessed Dominic Barberi of the Mother of God	12.10pm	St Mary's	Helen & John Cowburn-Wood, anniversary
Thursday 27th August 2026	10.00am	St Anthony's	Chalse Caine, anniversary
St Monica	12.10pm	St Mary's	Mary McNally & Caiti Kelly
Friday 28th August 2026	12.10pm	St Mary's	Cecilia Jemitus, recently died
St Augustine			
Saturday 29th August 2026	11am - 12 noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Catherine Fincher, anniversary
Sunday 30th August 2026	9.30am	St Anthony's	Lucas Corlett, recently died
22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes