

# NEWSLETTER

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

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**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Home Mission Day**

*(Page 128 in Mass Book)*

(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

The hymn 'O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder' is one of my favourites, but maybe that's because it has a great tune. The second verse states 'And when I think that God, His Son not sparing; sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, **He bled and died to take away my sin.**' Another modern hymn with a beautiful tune is 'In Christ alone'. It has the line 'On that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied'.

**Why did God become Human?** Why did Jesus die? Most of us were brought up to believe that Jesus died because of our sins. It's called the atonement or scapegoat theory. Was it only because we have sinned or did God have other reasons from the very beginning? In the thirteenth century, the Franciscans and the Dominicans took opposing positions on this question in the universities of Paris, Cologne and Oxford.

The Dominicans, represented by **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225–1274), felt they were being faithful to the Scriptures and Jewish temple metaphors of sacrifice, price and atonement. On the other hand, the Franciscan **Blessed John Duns Scotus** (c. 1266–1308), who held chairs of theology at Oxford and Paris, said that Jesus' crucifixion didn't change God's mind about us. God's mind didn't need changing. He challenged the view that Christ was a 'Plan B' after Adam and Eve sinned, which is the way most people seem to understand the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection. He said that Christ was 'Plan A' from the very beginning (see Colossians 1:15–20; Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:1–18). Scotus claimed that **the mystery of Incarnation was not motivated by a 'problem' to be put right but by love.** God became man to show us how much the Father loves us. Christianity is founded on love and freedom from the very beginning.

Although once called 'the Queen of the Sciences', theology is not an exact science. It is an attempt to describe the indescribable. St Anselm (1033-1109) wrote a treatise 'Cur Deus Homo?' (*Why did God become Man?*) He once described theology as 'faith seeking understanding'. The church constantly refines its understanding of the depths of our faith. Each of us in our own lives also seeks to make sense of the mystery of God's love. **This week we are aware of the terrible suffering of the people of Libya and Morocco**, a challenge we shared with our young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Only our faith tells us that God is with them in their suffering.

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## St Mary's School Mass

This Tuesday 19 September there will be Mass in St Mary's School at 9.30am to mark the beginning of the new school year. All welcome.

## Civic Service at St Mary's Church

Next **Sunday 24 September** we welcome Douglas City Council leaders and other dignitaries to join us at the 11.00am Mass for their annual Civic Service. This is a first for St Mary's. There will inevitably be some restrictions on access to Hill Street to accommodate the procession of elected members, council officers and uniformed groups from the City Hall. You may consider arriving earlier for Mass to avoid congestion. A welcome feature of this celebration will be the presence of children's choirs from our own St Mary's School alongside children from Manor Park Primary School. Please be aware that we will need to reserve seats for our guests. This may mean that you won't be able to sit in your customary place. I know that you will give a warm welcome to our visitors.

**Dates for your Diary:** We will be holding our annual **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots** in St Mary's from **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**. The 6<sup>th</sup> Day of the Novena, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October will include celebration of the **Sacrament of the Sick** at 3.00pm. More details later. *Fr John*

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- **St Marys Choir: Both Senior and Junior Choirs** have resumed their practices for the busy Autumn/Winter Season on Wednesdays. Juniors (reception age and above) meet at 5.30 - 6.15pm; then 6.15 - 7.15pm for the Senior Choir. All enthusiastic voices and abilities welcome. Please contact Debs on 402966 for further details.
- A **Macmillan Coffee Morning** will be held in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September** from 10am -12 noon, in memory of Canon Brendan. Offers of cakes would be gratefully accepted. All proceeds will go to Macmillan Cancer Research. Please contact Sheila on 475990.

- **Assisted Dying Prayer Evening** 'Standing in the Gap' at Broadway Baptist Church on Thursday 12 October at 7.00pm. See posters at the back of church.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £632; St Mary & St Joseph £851. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your generosity.

### Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>			
24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Monica Caley, recently died
24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Walter Gilbey, recently died
<i>Home Mission Day</i>			
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	The people of Morocco and Libya
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>St Mary's School</b>	<b>Children &amp; staff of St Mary's School</b>
	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>St Anthony's</i>	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
St Theodore of Canterbury	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Sue Manning, recently died
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Michael O'Kane, recently died
Ss Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions			
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	10.00am	St Anthony's	Kevin Cowin, recently died
St Matthew, Apostle	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Ann Hodgkinson, recently died
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Julie O'Neill
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	11.00 to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)			
25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Katrina Domingo & Mary Daniels, anniversary
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	James Stack, anniversary
<i>Day of Prayer in Thanksgiving for Harvest/Fruits of Human Work</i>		<i>(Civic Service)</i>	

#### **The Cantic of Creatures** (*St. Francis of Assisi*)

Most High, all-powerful Lord, yours are the praises, the glory, and the honour and all blessing.

Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,

especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom you give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; and bears a likeness of you, Most High One.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the Stars,

in heaven you formed them, clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind,

and through the air, cloudy and serene,

and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to your creatures.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,

who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night,

and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,

who sustains and governs us,

and who produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praised be you, my Lord, through those who give pardon for your love,

and bear infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.



**Let Justice  
and Peace Flow**  
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River  
Amos 5: 24