**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **7th Sunday of Easter, 1st June 2025**

**World Communications Day**

 **(**Year C for Sundays; Cycle 1 for weekdays)

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass); (Mass Readings: Page 872)*

Dear Parishioners,

Last Tuesday I was present in the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for the Installation of our new **Archbishop, John Sherrington.** The day before, celebrations by supporters of **Liverpool Football Club** were tragically marred by a mindless act of violence. We remember all those injured in our prayers.

We’re still getting used to our new **Pope Leo**. The following quotations give some insight into his priorities. His first words to the crowd gathered in St Peter’s Square were **words of peace,** directed to all of the world: *“Peace be with you all! Beloved brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who has given his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, reach your families, to all people, wherever they may be, to all peoples, to all the earth.* ***Peace be with you****!”*

In a 2023 interview Pope Leo emphasised the role of a personal relationship with Jesus, rather than doctrine or evangelization*: “****We are often preoccupied with teaching doctrine …… but we risk forgetting that our first task is to teach what it means to know Jesus Christ.”***

In a 2024 statement he called for a model of humble service in leadership: ***“The bishop is not supposed to be a little prince sitting in his kingdom,*** *but rather called authentically to be humble, to be close to the people he serves, to walk with them, to suffer with them, and to look for ways that he can better live the Gospel message in the midst of his people.”*

In a 2023 press conference, Pope Leo followed in Pope Francis’ footsteps of declaring the Church a welcoming place for all*: “Our work is to enlarge the tent and to* ***let everyone know they are welcome inside the Church.”***

He reiterated his connection to Pope Francis, picking up on many of Francis’ key themes when he was elected pope: the need to love without fear; to build bridges to unite, rather than divide; to be welcoming to all; and **to be a synodal church:** *“God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God’s hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other – let us go forward.”*

*“We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us also, and then help each other to* ***build bridges,*** *with dialogue, with encounter, uniting us all to be one people always at peace.”*

*“We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to receive with open arms everyone, everyone who needs our charity, our presence, dialogue and love.”*

*“To all of you, brothers and sisters from Rome, from Italy, from all over the world, we want to be a synodal Church, a church that walks, a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer.”*

**Pope Leo is an Augustinian**, and models his leadership on **St Augustine, Bishop of Hippo**, and author of some of the greatest works of literature, including Confessions and The City of God: *“I am a son of Saint Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, ‘For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian.’ In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared.”*

Finally, Pope Leo XIV closed his remarks by asking for the intercession of Mary, which is particularly fitting in the month of May *“****Our Mother Mary always wants to walk with us,*** *be close, help us with her intercession and love. So, I would like to pray together with you. Let us pray together for this new mission, for the whole church, for peace in the world, and let us ask Mary, our Mother, for this special grace.”* (Busted Halo May 2025)

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**Installation of Archbishop John Sherrington in Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle at 2.00pm on Tuesday 10th June:** It’simportant that we give a warm welcome to our new archbishop on his first official visit to the island. A service in the middle of a weekday afternoon is not the most convenient for the majority of our parishioners. Parking at St Mary’s during the week is always tricky. You may wish to consider parking at St Anthony’s Onchan and arranging a taxi – some of you may be able to share. Given that the date and time was chosen by the archbishop himself to accommodate his full diary, it would be good if those parishioners who are free make an extra effort to attend. The Lieutenant Governor and Lady Lorimer recognise the significance of this event and will be joined by Isle of Man Government dignitaries and civic leaders along with ecumenical guests from the Island’s Christian churches.

The ceremony will be brief and is not a Mass. It will be followed by a reception. We understand that not everyone will wish to or be able to stay for the reception but you are still welcome to attend the service. We have promised the caterers final numbers for the reception by this Monday. There is still time but **it is essential that you let us know if you are staying for the reception by emailing the parish office**. We will be charged per head, so names and exact numbers are required. *Fr John*

* **T & Chat** will meet on **3 June 2025** from 10.30am – 12 noon at St. Anthony’s Pastoral Centre. Tea / coffee and cakes will be served, please come along! For further enquiries please contact Josie on 406063.
* **Thank you** to all those who supported the young people from our parishes in their recent fundraisers in making donations to the **Lourdes Youth Fund.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated by their families.
* **Film Night and Cheese & Wine:** On **Saturday 14 June** in the **Columba Club**, there will be a showing of the topical film “Conclave”. This will be accompanied by a cheese and wine tasting. Doors open at 7pm with the film commencing at 7.45pm. Tickets for the evening are £17.50 and can be ordered from Richard Coase or Brian Murphy at the back of St Mary’s church or via the Parish Office. Proceeds will go to support the Club.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 31st May**7th Sunday of Easter*World Communications Day*  | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | Antonio Amosin, anniversary |
| **Sunday 1st June***World Communications Day* 7th Sunday of Easter | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Carmel Worboyes, deceasedPeople of our Parishes |
| **Monday 2nd June** | *No Mass or Service* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 3rd June**St Charles Lwanga and Companions | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Tommy Flynn, deceased |
| **Wednesday 4th June** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | P. Quinn, recently died |
| **Thursday 5th June**St Boniface | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Deceased ClergyTfepania Giuergto, anniversary |
| **Friday 6th June** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Irene Higgins, deceased |
| **Saturday 7th June*****Pentecost Sunday***Day of prayer for the Church | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 8th June**Day of prayer for the Church***Pentecost Sunday*** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Pearl McFeat, anniversaryKit Kneen, anniversary |

We remember in our prayers **Angela Main Thompson**, a parishioner from the south of the island, who died last weekend. Angela was a valued member of the Deanery Synodal Council. We think of her husband Howard and family who grieve her loss. May she rest in peace.

**Poem for Pentecost *by Malcolm Guite***

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings; today the hidden fountain flows and plays,
Today the church draws breath at last and sings as every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air and water, poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker and is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order and every word spells freedom and release.
Today the gospel crosses every border; all tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace.
Today the lost are found in His translation, whose mother tongue is Love in every nation.