**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ - Corpus Christi**

**22nd June 2025**

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

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass); (Mass Readings: Page 893)*

Dear Parishioners,

At the end of his General Audience with pilgrims in St Peter's Square on 18th June, **Pope Leo XIV** made a heartfelt appeal for peace, quoting his predecessors, Pope Francis and Pope Pius XII.

*"****The heart of the Church is rent asunder, by the cries rising up from places of war****," especially Ukraine, Iran, Israel and Gaza, Pope Leo said.****"We must never become accustomed to war"…..****.*

*Appealing directly to world leaders, Pope Leo echoed his predecessor,* ***Pope Francis****, who had so often declared:* ***"War is always a defeat!"*** *He also recalled the words of* ***Pope Pius XII,*** *who led the Church during the Second World War. In 1939, Pius XII issued his famous appeal by radio as the world stood on the brink of the Second World War. Citing the*[*historic radio message*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/it/speeches/1939/documents/hf_p-xii_spe_19390824_ora-grave.html.)*delivered by Pope Pius XII on 24 August 1939, Pope Leo invoked the same phrase with which his predecessor sought to avert global conflict:* ***"Nothing is lost with peace. All may be lost with war."***

***"It is by the force of reason, not the force of arms, that justice makes its way,"*** *Pope Pius XII proclaimed.* ***"Empires not founded on justice are not blessed by God. Politics divorced from morality betrays those who promote it."***

*He added, with urgency: "The danger is imminent, but there is still time.* ***Nothing is lost with peace. All may be lost with war….*** *By negotiating with goodwill and respect for each other's rights, they will find that sincere and effective agreements are always possible." Despite the Pope's impassioned plea, his voice went unheard. On 1 September 1939, German troops invaded Poland, triggering the Second World War.*

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Given the civil unrest in Ballymena in the North of Ireland, the words of two prominent American bishops also have a relevance for **Immigration policy** in the British Isles:
***Cardinal Blase Cupich's***[***powerful sermon***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9uxEd1uA68)*at the special Mass to celebrate Pope Leo XIV at Rate Field in Chicago June 14 stated:* ***"Humanity is diminished whenever the unborn or the undocumented, the unemployed or the unhealthy, are excluded, uninvited or unwelcome, or whenever we tell ourselves they are of no concern to us….*** *We should keep this in mind as we face the challenges of immigration in our country. Without question, countries have a duty to secure their border….. At the same time, it is wrong to scapegoat those who are here without documents, for indeed they are here due to a broken immigration system which both parties have failed to fix…..* ***The task before us in this moment as Christians, is to call each other to live with authenticity, as authentic persons, rejecting language or activity that demonizes and degrades the dignity of others, that pretends that some persons are unworthy to be connected to us. That is foreign to our calling to be persons in the image and likeness of God……."***

*Secondly, on June 16, the* ***President of the U.S. Bishops' Conference,***[***Archbishop Timothy Broglio****, issued his strongest statement*](https://www.ncronline.org/news/usccb-president-bishops-stand-immigrants-challenging-hour)*to date on the subject, promising the support of the hierarchy for our immigrant brothers and sisters while Trump ramps up his deportation efforts. "In the context of a gravely deficient immigration system, the mass arrest and removal of our neighbours, friends and family members on the basis of immigration status alone, particularly in ways that are arbitrary or without due process, represent a profound social crisis before which* ***no person of good will can remain silent,****"* (National Catholic Reporter, 18th June 2025)

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Today’s feast of **Corpus Christi** is a fitting occasion to present certificates signed by **Archbishop John** authorising those parishioners who attended the training course last October to serve as **Eucharistic Ministers** for the next five years, subject to safeguarding clearance.

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We have received confirmation this week that Fr Dennis has been moved from the Isle of Man to a hospital chaplaincy ministry in the UK. His appointment to the island has not worked out for several reasons. Fr Dennis’ superior has expressed his gratitude to both Fr Joseph Kiganda and myself for doing all we could to support Fr Dennis these past 7 months. We wish Fr Dennis well in his new assignment. *Fr John*

* **T & Chat** will next meet on **Tuesday 1 July** from **10.30am to 12 noon at St. Anthony’s Pastoral Centre.** Lucy Buxton from the Manx Deaf Society will be joining the group to demonstrate sign language and lip reading. Refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome. For more information, please contact Josie on 406063.
* A **Coffee Morning** will be held in aid of **Northern Air Ambulance** in St Anthony’s Pastoral Centre from 10am to 12.30pm on Friday 27 June. No charge but donations welcome. If anyone can make a cake or help on the day, please speak to Sheila Signorio.
* There will be no access to St Anthony’s Church from this Sunday 22nd after morning Mass until the following Saturday evening of 28th June. The third and final phase of renovations should be completed during this time.

**Fr John’s Retirement**: As you know Fr John will be retiring at the end of August. He does not want a big fuss so a modest party in appreciation of Fr John’s 10 years in our parishes will take place on **Sunday 20th July from 3pm to 4.30pm at St Mary’s Church** and outside in the garden if weather permits. Many parishioners who are going away for the school holidays have asked for an opportunity to mark Fr John’s farewell and to say Goodbye to him. The latest available Sunday afternoon in July is Sunday 20th. The party theme will be ***Strawberries & Fizz*** with soft drinks, beer, fizz and wine provided together with mini sweet snacks, goodies and nibbles. **All St Anthony’s and St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph’s parishioners are invited**. For the purpose of ordering drinks and food, *please let the parish office know if you would like to attend, preferably by* *email to* saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk. Many parishioners have also asked how they can donate to a farewell gift for Fr John. Brown Collection Envelopes are available at the back of both Churches from this weekend if you would like to contribute to Fr John’s retirement. Please return these in the collection baskets at weekend Masses or through the parish office letterbox. Thank you.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 21st June*****Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi*** | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | John Smith, anniversary |
| **Sunday 22nd June*****Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi*** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | People of our ParishesGordon & Shirley Savage, deceased |
| **Monday 23rd June** | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 24th June**Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist | *No Service today*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *No Eucharistic Service today*Beverly Pavillar, recently died |
| **Wednesday 25th June** | 12.10pm***2.00pm*** | St Mary’s***St Mary’s*** | Una Kelly, anniversary***Funeral Service: Tommy Reed*** |
| **Thursday 26th June** | *No Mass today*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *No Mass or Service today*Canon Brendan Alger, 2nd anniv |
| **Friday 27th June**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Deceased Clergy |
| **Saturday 28th June**Immaculate Heart of Mary***Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul*** | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 29th June*****Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul*** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Bernard Simpson, recently diedPaddy Quinn, recently died |

We remember in our prayers this week **Brian McNeice** and **Tommy Reed** who died recently. Tommy’s funeral service will take place in St Mary’s this coming Wednesday. Brian’s cremation service will be held on 4 July. We think of their families who grieve their loss. May they rest in peace.

Jesus says *“I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.”*