**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
 Tel** 01624 675509 **Email** saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk **Website** [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

 **Solemnity of Pentecost, 8th June 2025**

**Day of Prayer for the Church**

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

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass); (Mass Readings: Page 876)*

Dear Parishioners,

We look forward to the visit of our new **Archbishop John Sherrington** as he takes possession of his episcopal seat in his cathedral church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Co-Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Liverpool this coming Tuesday 10th June. We very much appreciate that Archbishop John has made this visit a priority, so soon after his installation on 27th May at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool.

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Growing up I didn’t think too much about the Holy Spirit. Praying to the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Ghost, as we called him, was an occasional devotion we resorted to at school before taking exams. To that extent, mine was a two-dimensional faith. I’ve often used the image of the pilot light in a gas central heating boiler. We’re not conscious of it but it’s there flickering away until the thermostat or the time clock kick in. And then the boiler fires up and the system becomes fully alive. The Holy Spirt is the soul and heart of our faith. Without it our faith can be little more than an inherited tribal identity; a religion of compliance and habit. The time comes when we make our faith our own. It may be a gradual process; or it may be triggered by tragedy and suffering or perhaps by falling in love or giving birth to a child. These grace-filled opportunities can be the occasion for making our faith our own; a faith springing from the inside out rather than coasting along from the outside in.

It is prayer that brings our faith alive. **And when we pray it is the Holy Spirit praying within us.** The Holy Spirit has been there in the depth of our hearts all the time. And praying sets it free. It’s when we teach our children to pray that the faith we pass on to our children comes alive both in us and in our children, too. One of my earliest memories is praying a decade of the rosary each night with my mother and father and my sisters. That chain of faith from one generation to the next is vitalised by our prayers.

North American Franciscan priest Fr Richard Rohr puts it better than I can:

*It is a shame that the Holy Spirit tends to be an afterthought for many Christians. We don’t really “have the Spirit.” We tend, I’m afraid, to simply go through the motions. We formally believe, but honestly, there isn’t much fire to it. There isn’t much conviction. There isn’t much service. We just sort of believe. That’s why in the Gospels there are two baptisms that are clearly distinguished. There’s the baptism with water that most of us are used to, and there’s the baptism “with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Matthew 3:11); that’s the one that really matters.*

*The water baptism that many of us received as children really demands little conviction or understanding. Until that water baptism becomes real, until we know Jesus, and we can rely on Jesus, call upon Jesus, share Jesus, love Jesus, we’re just going along for the ride.*

*We can recognize people who have had a second baptism in the Holy Spirit. They tend to be loving. They tend to be exciting. They want to serve others, and not just be served themselves. They forgive life itself for not being everything they once hoped for. They forgive their neighbours. They forgive themselves for not being as perfect as they would like to be.*

***Even though we so often pray, “Come, Holy Spirit,” the gift of the Spirit is already given. The Holy Spirit has already come. You all are temples of the Holy Spirit, equally, objectively and forever! The only difference is the degree that we know it, draw upon it and consciously believe it****. All the scriptural images of the Spirit are dynamic - flowing water, descending dove, fire and wind. If there’s never any movement, energy, excitement, deep love, service, forgiveness or surrender, you can be pretty sure you don’t have the Spirit. If our whole lives are just going through the motions, if there’s never any deep conviction, we don’t have the Spirit. We would do well to fan into flame the gift that we already have.*

*God does not give God’s Spirit to those of us who are worthy, because none of us are worthy. God gives God’s Spirit in this awakened way to those who want it. On this Feast of Pentecost, quite simply, want it! Rely upon it. Know that you already have it. (Richard Rohr, ‘Why do you ask for what has already been given’ June 8th 2014)*

**Installation of Archbishop John Sherrington in Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle at 2.00pm on Tuesday 10th June:** Thank you to all those who have let us know they will be attending the service and have asked to be included in the numbers for drinks and canapés at the reception afterwards. Some of you have kindly advised that you have work or other commitments and that you will leave immediately after the service. ***Please arrive to take your places by 1.50pm.*** *Fr John*

* **St Anthony’s Charity Bingo** will be held on **Thursday 12 June** at 7.30pm in the **Pastoral Centre**. Everyone welcome.
* **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.
* **Island Spirituality Network:** On Saturday 14 June at St John’s Mill from 10am to 1pm. Speaker is Revd Kiran Wimberly, co-leader of the Corrymeela Community in the North of Ireland. Her theme will be ‘The Psalms – an instrument of reconciliation’. All welcome.

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 7th June*****Pentecost Sunday***Day of prayer for the Church | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 8th June*****Pentecost Sunday*** Day of prayer for the Church | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Pearl McFeat, anniversaryKit Kneen, anniversary |
| **Monday 9th June**Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Peace in our world |
| **Tuesday 10th June** | ***2.00pm*** | ***St Mary’s*** | *No lunchtime Mass in St Mary’s today.* *No morning Eucharistic Service in St Anthony’s.* ***Installation of Archbishop John Sherrington*** |
| **Wednesday 11th June**St Barnabas | *9.30am*12.10pm | *St Mary’s School**Mass*St Mary’s | *Pupils and staff of St Mary’s School*Everyone welcome to this Mass.Alf & Betty Bowden, deceased |
| **Thursday 12th June**Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Veronica Stackhouse, deceasedWillie Slattery, recently died |
| **Friday 13th June**St Anthony of Padua | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Deceased members of the McNally & O’Hanlon families |
| **Saturday 14th June*****Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*** | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions Mary & Patrick Reaney, anniversary |
| **Sunday 15th June*****Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*** | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Fr. Brian Dougherty, recently diedPeople of our Parishes |

‘With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world, proclaims the word, allows itself to be made “restless” by history, and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity. Together, as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk towards God and love one another.’ *(Pope Leo XIV, 18th May 2025)*