**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, 15th June 2025**

**Day for Life**

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

 *(Page 449 in Missal for Order of the Mass); (Mass Readings: Page 889)*

Dear Parishioners,

During his homily at Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost, last Sunday morning in St Peter's Square,
Pope Leo XIV recalled how the Holy Spirit accomplished 'something extraordinary' in the lives of the Apostles, and suggests that "Today, too, what took place in the Upper Room takes place anew in our midst. Like a mighty wind that overtakes us, like a crash that startles us, like a fire that illuminates us, the gift of the Holy Spirit descends upon us."

While "following Jesus' death, they had retreated behind closed doors, in fear and sadness," now, Pope Leo observed, "they receive a new way of seeing things, an interior understanding that helps them to interpret the events that occurred and to experience intimately the presence of the Risen Lord."

In this context, the Pope marvelled that the Holy Spirit "overcomes their fear, shatters their inner chains, heals their wounds, anoints them with strength and grants them the courage to go out to all and to proclaim God's mighty works."

Pope Leo XIV recalled that at Pentecost, the doors of the Upper Room were opened because the Spirit opens borders and is the Gift that opens our lives to love….. His presence, breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves." He observed that the Spirit also opens borders in our relationship with others. Recalling Jesus' explanation that the gift of the Spirit "is the love between Him and the Father that comes to dwell within us," the Pope said this enables us to "open our hearts to our brothers and sisters, overcoming our rigidity, moving beyond our fear of those who are different, and mastering the passions that stir within."

The Pope explained that the Holy Spirit brings the fruits within us to maturity in order to cultivate good and healthy relationships, and in doing so, broadens the borders of our relationships and opens us to the joy of fraternity….. This is also a critical yardstick for the Church," that we are only truly the Church of the Risen Lord and disciples of Pentecost if there are no borders or divisions among us; if we are able to dialogue and accept one another in the Church, and to reconcile our diversities; and if, as Church, we become a welcoming and hospitable place for all."

The Holy Father also recognized that the Holy Spirit also opens borders between peoples, underscoring that "God's 'breath' unites our hearts, makes us view others as our brothers and sisters," and "breaks down barriers and tears down the walls of indifference and hatred."

"May the strong wind of the Spirit," Pope Leo concluded, before imploring the Blessed Mother in prayer, "come upon us and within us, open the borders of our hearts, grant us the grace of encounter with God, enlarge the horizons of our love and sustain our efforts to build a world in which peace reigns."

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**A big thank you to all who took part in Tuesdays ceremony when Archbishop John Sherrington was installed in his episcopal chair in the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle.**

We were especially appreciative of the presence of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, the President of Tynwald, the Chief Minister with other members of Tynwald and the IOM Government as well as the Deputy Mayor of Douglas and other city council elected members and officers. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Tom Williams in his role as a Canon of the Metropolitan Cathedral along with Canons Aidan Prescott, Tony O’Brien and Sean Riley. It was also a truly ecumenical occasion. Captain Dylan Nieuwoudt of the Salvation Army read the first reading, and the Gospel was read in Manx by The Revd Dr Janet Corlett, chair of the Isle of Man Methodist District, and read in English by the Venerable Irene Cowell, Archdeacon of Man. Children from St Mary’s primary school sang beautifully. It’s probably fair to say they stole the show. Archbishop John was especially appreciative of their contribution and recorded a short video in which he thanks them.

**Particular thanks are due to our welcomers, readers, our choir, the flower ladies, the church cleaners who keep our cathedral church in good order every week, those who helped with refreshments and our caterers. Above all I would like to thank parishioners who took part in the service including those who travelled from other parishes on the Island. A mid-week afternoon service meant that many of our regulars were unable to attend. However, the church was comfortably full and Archbishop John received a warm welcome. Many thanks.**

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This week we heard the sad news of the death of **Andrew Hillas,** husband of The Right Revd Tricia Hillas, bishop of Sodor and Man. We had been praying for him each day since his recent cancer diagnosis but no one expected him to die so soon. He had been looking forward to a life of active retirement on the Island. Our prayers are with Bishop Tricia and those grieving his death. May he rest in peace. *Fr John*

**Masses and Services for the coming week**

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

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| **Saturday 14th June*****Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*** | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | 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 |
| **Monday 16th June**St Richard of Chichester | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 17th June** | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Josie Williams, deceased |
| **Wednesday 18th June**St John Rigby | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Lauren Tierney, 1st anniversary |
| **Thursday 19th June**St Romuald | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Monica Bersin & Veronica Stackhouse, deceasedGladys Corran, deceased |
| **Friday 20th June**St Alban | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Deceased Clergy |
| **Saturday 21st June*****Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi*** | *No Confessions*5.00pm | St Mary’s | *No Confessions or Exposition today* 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 |

 **The Trinity**
In the Beginning, not in time or space,
But in the quick before both space and time,
In Life, in Love, in co-inherent Grace,
In three in one and one in three, in rhyme,
In music, in the whole creation story,
In His own image, His imagination,
The Triune Poet makes us for His glory,
And makes us each the other’s inspiration.
He calls us out of darkness, chaos, chance,
To improvise a music of our own,
To sing the chord that calls us to the dance,
Three notes resounding from a single tone,
To sing the End in whom we all begin;
Our God beyond, beside us and within.
*(Malcolm Guite)*