**NEWSLETTER**

 **Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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 **16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 20th July 2025** *(Readings: Page 928)*

 and **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 27th July 2025** *(Readings: Page 932)*

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

 *(Page 449 for Order of the Mass)*

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend we were delighted to welcome **Archbishop John** to St Mary’s and St Anthony’s. He celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday evening and presided at our three Masses. He also visited St Mary’s School and had an informal meeting with all the priests of the Island deanery. This was the Archbishop’s second visit to the Island, the first being for his installation when he took possession of his seat in our Co-Cathedral. The weather was brilliant on both occasions. Archbishop John thoroughly enjoyed his stay. I suspect he will be a frequent visitor in the years ahead.

This week was a time for farewells at **St Mary’s Primary School.** On Wednesday we said goodbye to the children of **Year 6** the first cohort of children that has passed through the school from reception since the arrival of **Mrs Donna Martin**. It was a special day for her but also for the parents and children themselves. On Thursday there was another farewell celebration when the school said goodbye to **Mrs Jo Callow** and **Mrs Jo Dawson** who between them have clocked up 70 years of service to the school. Mrs Callow served many years as Deputy Head and had a key role in First Holy Communion preparation. Mrs Dawson, an accomplished musician, played the piano and keyboard for countless nativity plays, concerts and school Masses as well as the annual Hosanna Rock and Resurrection Rock. Many happy memories were shared along with tearful farewells. The school also expressed their appreciation for my time engaging with the children and staff over the last ten years.

I was amused to read the following piece in ‘The Times’ on Tuesday. I share it with you:

**PRIEST CALLS OUT ‘ENTITLED’ PARISHIONERS IN SCATHING POEM**
A priest has published a poem calling his parishioners “entitled” and blaming their “unlikeable” nature for his dwindling congregation. **Father Pat Brennan** wrote of “the righteous, the clique, the worthy” who he says forced him out after nine years at the **Holy Family Catholic Church in Coventry**. The poem, titled ***Not I Lord Surely*!** and signed off as his “parting gift”, was shared in the church’s newsletter, alongside a message saying he had been pushed out by “those few who had been vocal in criticism in and outside the parish”.

***Not I Lord Surely*!**
What makes people not come to church?
Could it be the people who already go?
The righteous, the clique, the worthy, the disdainful look given, the thought you’re in my seat,
the unfriendly, so that the stranger remains so.

Gossip flows from holy lips,
a hobby to talk about so and so, you know?
A mix of disgruntled, unlikeable, entitled offended, who don’t want to know
Better than you, holier too, tutting for a living, whispering about you know who…..
Did you ever go inside and wish you hadn’t arrived?
The words of love conveniently ignored; a plethora of benches occupied by the weekly bored

What makes people not come to church?
The cold indifference and quiet distain of those who already go.
If your first instinct when you hear the words “Go in peace” is “it’s time for war!”
Then think again, ask am I the reason people flee, am I to blame, is it me? Not I surely?
So not quite the whole story.
Just don’t make it so, continue to go, but in Christ’s likeness grow.

Rejected… this is how for some it can feel.
Yet each person who steps inside should be welcomed, accepted, loved, forgiven, this is the mark of the Lord’s own seal.
What makes people stay and not run away?
Hearing Christ’s command to love allowing those precious words to find a home in our heart, forever there they stay.

**Fr Patrick Brennan, July 2025** ([Sian Bradley](https://www.thetimes.com/profile/sian-bradley), The Times, 15 July 2025)

*Fr John*

* **Fr John’s Retirement:** We look forward to seeing on Sunday all who asked to be included in Fr John’s retiring party. **Prosecco, beer, wine and soft drinks will be served** from 3pm to 4.30pm. There will be **fresh** **scones, cupcakes, mini snacks and nibbles**. Thank you to all who donated to Fr John’s Farewell Gift. The brown envelopes will remain at the back of church until later in August.
* Our **Little Church** in St Mary’s has finished now for the School Summer Holidays. **St Anthony’s Little Church will have their last session this Sunday.** Both will resume in September. A big thanks to our Catechists who generously give of their time each week. Like all church activities, compliance with Safeguarding and Data Protection must now be a priority. Parents are required to register their children for little Church by emailing the parish office. They will then complete a form with contact details etc which will be kept securely in the parish office. Thank you.
* T and Chat will meet on **Tuesday 5 August 2025** from **10.30am -12noon** at **St. Anthony’s Pastoral Centre** when they will welcome Suzanne Harding MBE & Sylvia Lawrinson from the Samaritans to speak about their work. Everyone welcome, refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie on 406063. Big Thanks to Lucy Buxton, CEO of the Manx Deaf Society for an informative and humorous presentation at the last meeting.
* **Invitation from Fr Joseph, Castletown** to Rushen Abbey Open-Air Mass in honour of Our Lady of Rushen at **3pm on Saturday 16 August 2025**. This Mass is part of the Jubilee Year of Hope with theme***Mary, Mother of Hope.*** Main Celebrant Mgr John Devine. All parishioners welcome.

**Masses and Services for the next two weeks**

*All Masses and Services from St Mary’s are live-streamed*1

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| **Saturday 19th July**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 5.00pm | St Mary’s | People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 20th July**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Joe Greene, 8th anniversaryThanksgiving - Vinci Pabellan |
| **Monday 21st July** | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Michael Sheehan & family  |
| **Tuesday 22nd July**St Mary Magdalene | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Fr Brian Dougherty, recently diedMaureen Rogers, sick |
| **Wednesday 23rd July**St Bridget | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Sarah Williamson, 60th birthday anniversary |
| **Thursday 24th July** | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service* Sheila Mander, anniversary |
| **Friday 25th July**St James the Apostle | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Esther & George Murphy & family, anniversary |
| **Saturday 26th July**St Joachim, St Anne17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*Day for Grandparents & Elderly* | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions Jose Santacruz, 11th anniversary  |
| **Sunday 27th July**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly* | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | People of our ParishesMonsignor Anthony Michael Barratt, 40th Ordination anniversary  |
| **Monday 28th July** | *No Mass today* |  | *No Mass or Service today* |
| **Tuesday 29th July**Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus | *10.00am*12.10pm | *St Anthony’s*St Mary’s | *Eucharistic Service*Catherine Fincher, anniversary |
| **Wednesday 30th July**St Peter Chrysologus | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Mildred Gilhooly & Vivian Garnham, anniversary |
| **Thursday 31st July**St Ignatius of Loyola | 10.00am12.10pm | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Collette Jacobs, recently diedSonya Doherty & family, intentions |
| **Friday 1st August**St Alphonsus Liguori | 12.10pm | St Mary’s | Frances McCarrick, intentions |
| **Saturday 2nd August**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 11.00am to 12noon5.00pm | St Mary’sSt Mary’s | Exposition and Confessions People of our Parishes |
| **Sunday 3rd August**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30am11.00am | St Anthony’sSt Mary’s | Monica Caley, anniversarySheila Hennessy, anniversary |