

# NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle and St Joseph, Douglas

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Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023

(Pages 251 and 255 in Mass Book)

(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle 1 for weekdays)



Dear Parishioners

As a 12-year-old boy at St Joseph's, Upholland, I was fortunate to be a member of the choir, the *Schola Cantorum*. Fr Kevin Snape was the choirmaster. Apart from singing at High Mass every Sunday we came to our own during Holy Week. In addition to the usual services of the Sacred Triduum - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil - we sang at *Tenebrae* - three successive days of the official Prayer of the Church - Matins and Lauds. One candle from a huge triangular candelabra was extinguished after each psalm until there was just one remaining. It left the church in darkness - hence the name *Tenebrae*. We sang the responsories - verses from scripture that followed each reading, set to music by the sixteenth century Spanish composer Tomas Luis de Victoria for three or four unaccompanied voices. I was a boy treble - and we got to sing the top line. Rehearsing separately, it was only on the eve of Holy Week that trebles and altos joined with tenors and basses to experience their full magic.

In the early sixties the liturgy was still in Latin. Even as a twelve-year-old I found these Holy Week responsories achingly beautiful. In the junior seminary we studied Latin in class, but those responsories conveyed a haunting melancholy and sadness even if the literal meaning of the words at times escaped us. Some were phrases from the Old Testament, repeated in the mouth of Jesus; poignant phrases that captured his abandonment and betrayal. I still hear those words in my head: '*Amicus meus osculi mei*' (My friend betrayed me with a kiss); '*Melius illi erat si natus non fuisset*' (It would have been better if he had not been born); '*Cum gladiis et fustibus exierunt tamquam ad latronem*' (They went out with swords and clubs as to a thief'); '*Attendite, et videte, si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus*' (Attend and see if there be sorrow like my sorrow).

Late afternoon on Wednesday in Holy Week, the Upholland Schola sang *Tenebrae* in the Lutyens crypt of the Metropolitan Cathedral, a service repeated the following morning back at the college. The present-day Cathedral had yet to be built. Archbishop John Carmel Heenan processed down the aisle in his *Capa Magna*, the long flowing train prelates wore in the days before Vatican II. Afterwards we were treated to tea at Reece's café in Clayton Square. That building is now occupied by Tesco.

I embraced the changes in the liturgy brought about after the Second Vatican Council. Some might therefore imagine that I fail to appreciate the beauty of the Tridentine liturgy. It's called Tridentine because it dates from the Council of Trent (1545-1563). I was brought up on it and know it inside out. I loved singing the Latin but the English liturgy is more accessible to everyone. It would be a backward move if we were ever to return to it.

Imagine my delight when I discovered that the choir of Westminster Cathedral had recorded a full set of the responsories. I take it out each year and play it in my car. I have also been playing it during Confessions at St Mary's on Saturday mornings in Lent. It's good to immerse ourselves in the tragedy of Holy Week. We identify with Christ's suffering and he identifies with ours. Easter Sunday makes no sense without it.

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I would like to thank all those who have contributed in any way to our Holy Week and Easter ceremonies: church cleaners, those who serve hot drinks after Mass, choirs, flower arrangers, readers, eucharistic ministers, stewards, catechists, altar servers and all those hidden helpers who give their time to our parishes throughout the year. Many of you will be visiting family and friends off-Island over Easter. Others will be welcoming family members to the Island. I wish you all a Happy Easter wherever you spend it. A big thank you to those who sent me Easter good wishes and gifts.

Every year on the Wednesday evening of Holy Week at the Chrism Mass in our Metropolitan the Archbishop blesses the Holy Oils which will be used in the celebration of the Sacraments throughout the Diocese in the coming year. This year for the first time a lay representative from the Isle of Man was invited to attend. **Rita O'Connor**, a Eucharistic Minister who brings Holy Communion each week to the sick and housebound took part in the procession.

**Maundy Money:** We congratulate **Dave Corkill** from St Mary's who was chosen to receive Maundy Money from the King in York Minster on Holy Thursday in recognition of his devoted service to the church and the community. This is a great honour for Dave, his family and for our Catholic community on the Island. *Fr John*

- **Easter Sunday Morning Sunrise Service at 6.00am on Douglas Beach** (*meet at the bottom of Broadway*). This traditional ecumenical service will be followed by breakfast baps at St Thomas's Church, Finch Rd, Douglas.
- **St Anthony's Bingo** will take place on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £448 (26/3), £ 520 (2/4); St Mary & St Joseph £929 (26/3), £1,291 (2/4).

### Masses and Services for the next two weeks

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

<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> <b>Easter Vigil Mass</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	Ann Fox, birthday anniversary
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Jean Cadogan, anniversary People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Sick Parishioners
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Bridget McGovern, recently died
<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b>Requiem Mass: James Keating</b>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Ileana Cseke, recently died Fr John Hindley, 25 <sup>th</sup> ordination anv
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Animma Antony, anniversary
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11.00am to 12.00noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions & Exposition People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter Day of Divine Mercy	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Cesare Leonetti, birthday anniv Teresa Redmond, recently died
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Sue Manning, recently died
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Francis Quayle, special intention
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Paddy & Bridget Gaffey, anniv
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Seamus McGovern, recently died Steven Archondopoulos, recently died
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> St Anselm	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Pablo, anniversary
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	11.00am to 12.00noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions & Exposition People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Brian Ashworth, recently died Breda Callister

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves  
 And now he blesses hers who stood and wept  
 And would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
 Last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
 Up from the east.  
 A sound behind her stirs  
 A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
 She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
 Or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
 She hardly hears his gentle question  
 'Why, Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
 That brightens as she chokes out her reply  
 'They took my love away, my day is night'  
 And then she hears her name, she hears  
 Love say the Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day. (*Malcolm Guite*)

