

# NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) Website [www.manxcatholic.org](http://www.manxcatholic.org)

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

*(Page 265 in Mass Book)*

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

Dear Parishioners

The following article explores the role of King Charles III as **Defender of the Faith**:

*In 1953, the year of **Queen Elizabeth II's coronation**, the UK was predominantly Christian. Opinion polls in the 1950s and 1960s, asking people to name their religion, found that between 86% and 91% gave a Christian denomination.*

*Seventy years on, as **King Charles III** prepares for his coronation on 6th May, the picture is rather different. The 2021 census found that **for the first time, only a minority of people in England and Wales described themselves as Christian**. Attendance at Sunday services at Anglican churches in England hit an all-time low (bar the pandemic year of 2020) in 2021, at 509,000 people, or less than 1% of the population.*

*In common with his predecessors for almost 500 years, Charles will take the titles of **defender of the faith** and supreme governor of the Church of England. He will swear to uphold "the laws of God and the true profession of the gospel, maintain the Protestant Reformed religion established by law and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline and government thereof, as by law established."*

*Almost 30 years ago, Charles triggered a furore when he suggested he would be **defender of faith in general, rather than defender of THE faith**, stemming from a desire to reflect Britain's religious diversity. The coronation oath, for the first time, will be prefaced with words making clear that "the church established by law, whose settlement you will swear to maintain ... **will seek to foster an environment in which people of all faiths and beliefs may live freely**".*

*James Walters, who leads the London School of Economics' faith centre, said: "People got very fixated on whether the title would change. His mother, Queen Elizabeth, spoke of the Church of England **creating a space for freedom across religions**." Last September, shortly after the Queen's death, Charles told faith leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception that he was a "committed Anglican" but the sovereign had a "duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by **protecting the space for faith itself** and its practice through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs. **I hold myself bound to respect those who follow other spiritual paths, as well as those who seek to live their lives in accordance with secular ideals**."*

*Charles's own faith is "deep and strong, but more questing, more intellectual, more complex" than his mother's, said Ian Bradley, an emeritus professor of cultural and spiritual history at the University of St Andrews: "He's clearly drawn to eastern Orthodox Christianity and aspects of Islam. He's interested in all kinds of spirituality."*

*The coronation liturgy will accommodate Charles's desire to involve leaders and representatives of other religions. One innovation is a greeting to the king to be delivered in unison by Jewish, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim representatives at the end of the service. The chief rabbi, Ephraim Mirvis, has been invited to stay at St James's Palace on the night before the coronation so he can walk to Westminster Abbey, as vehicular travel is prohibited on the Jewish sabbath.*

*Sensing an opportunity to engage the public's interest in an era of sharply declining congregations, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have said the coronation "presents a unique missional opportunity for the church". Clergy and congregations have been supplied with a pack of tips and advice, and it may resonate.*

*"For most of the 20th century, people thought that religion would recede entirely as education and technology superseded superstition," said Walters. "And similarly, people have been talking about a republic in this country since at least the 1960s. But neither has happened. "In an age of rapid change and individualism, where politics seems to have become either very technocratic and managerial or very close and divisive, there's a certain appeal of ancient symbols and stories." (Harriet Sherwood, The Guardian 4th May 2023).*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Confirmation:** Thank you to the parents who responded to register their children. Forms will be sent out shortly. Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated during the weekend of 30 September when Archbishop will be on the Island. This will allow time for the necessary preparation classes. **Young people currently in Year 7 (who will be in Year 8 in September 2023) are eligible to receive the Sacrament. Older children under 18, who have missed out on Confirmation in previous years will also be included. The preparation will consist of sessions in Ballakermeen High School at the end of the school day. Please email the parish office at [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk) if you wish to enrol your child.** Many thanks to high school teachers Peter Wiles and Gerard Murphy who have once again generously agreed to lead the course. Details of the preparation courses will be sent in due course to those who have enrolled.

- **Sacrament of the Sick:** On **Sunday 21 May at 3pm Archbishop Malcolm will administer the Sacrament of the Sick in St Mary's Church.** Eucharistic ministers and SVP members may wish to advise the sick & housebound.
- **St Anthony's Bingo** will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.** Everyone welcome.
- **Island Spirituality Network** will meet on **Saturday 13 May** from 10am to 1pm at St John's Mill. Speaker will be Revd James McGowan from Newcastle. His theme will be 'A Present Faith - Insights from Chaplaincy as a model for Christian mission and life.' Everyone welcome.
- **Gardening at St Anthony's** will continue on **Saturday 13 May at 9.30am** for a couple of hours and every fortnight thereafter. Just please turn up on the day. Bring your own tools. Refreshments provided.
- **Assisted Dying:** Manx Duty of Care are arranging two public meetings with Dr Claud Regnard, a highly regarded palliative care consultant, entitled 'Assisted Dying: The Facts, The Evidence. These will take place at **7pm on Tuesday 16 May** at the Keyll Darree Post Graduate Centre, Nobles Hospital; and **7pm on Wednesday 17 May** at the Mountain View Innovation Centre, Ramsey. (*Dr Claud is an agnostic, so these events could be easy for parishioners to invite non-Christian friends and family.*)
- **Praying the Keeills Week 20-27 May:** On **Monday 22 May at 7.30pm in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre,** Rev Ian Faulds will give a talk on 'St Maughold, the Isle of Man's forgotten patron saint'. Exploring the story of the once internationally renowned, 5<sup>th</sup> century saint who inspired generations of pilgrims.
- **Ukraine:** On **Saturday 6 May** three vans will be leaving the Archdiocesan Office in Liverpool with dried food and building tools to be delivered directly to Bishop Gregory Komar from the Ukrainian Diocese of Sambir - Drohobych, who will take these goods for distribution in the Lviv region of Western Ukraine. The vans will be driven by Martin Miller, Chief Operating Officer of the Archdiocese, Office Manager Sharne Kelso, Anthony Mc Loughlin and three other volunteers. This is the fifth trip undertaken by the Archdiocese delivering essential goods. It is significant that it takes place in the same week as the Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool and has only been made possible through your generous donations.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £550; St Mary & St Joseph £1,073. Thank you for your generosity.

### Masses and Services for the coming week

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

<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	5.00pm	St Mary's	Ken Daly, 4 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Deceased members Wheeler & M <sup>c</sup> Nally families People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>No Mass today</i>		
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> Day for Survivors of Sexual Abuse	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Martin & Natividad Latonio, deceased
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b> St John of Avila	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Thanksgiving
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00am <b>10.45am</b> 12.10 noon <b>2.00pm</b>	St Anthony's <b>Crematorium</b> St Mary's <b>Crematorium</b>	Noirin Cahill, recently died <b>Funeral Service: Francis Carrington</b> Roy Wolstencroft, deceased <b>Funeral Service: Nora Lynn</b>
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Cyril Craig, recently died
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Dedication of Liverpool Cathedral of Christ the King</i> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	11am- 12.00noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Confessions & Exposition Norah Jennings, recently died
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Jocelyn Marquez & Reynaldo Cruz, recently died

We remember **Francis Carrington** and **Norah Lynn** who died recently. We think of their grieving family and friends. May they rest in peace.