

NEWSLETTER

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

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6th Sunday of Easter, 14th May 2023

(Page 268 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

Only days after the coronation ceremony, this week saw an intervention by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the House of Lords, on the debate regarding the Illegal Migration Bill. It's worth quoting in full. Archbishop Welby's speech was affirmed by Bishop Paul McAleenan, Refugee spokesperson for the English & Welsh Catholic Bishops Conference.

"My Lords, we need a Bill to reform migration. We need a Bill to stop the boats. We need a Bill to destroy the evil tribe of traffickers. The tragedy is that without much change this is not that Bill.

This Bill fails utterly to take a long-term and strategic view of the challenges of migration and undermines international co-operation rather than taking an opportunity for the UK to show leadership, as we did in 1951.

There are too many problems for one speech in this Bill and the Rt Revd Prelates, The Bishop of Durham and Bishop of Gloucester, will speak to the other issues. But I hope the Government will listen to the speeches today pointing out some of the issues, including the eloquent and detailed speech by the noble Lord Coaker.

The existing global conventions and agreements need updating in response to the crises we face today. While now inadequate, what those conventions offer is a baseline from which to build a globally shared understanding of what protection must be given to refugees. They are not inconvenient obstructions to get round by any legislative means necessary.

Legal compatibility is a question for the learned lawyers among your Lordships, but it does not require a lawyer to see that what is suggested is a dramatic departure from what was ever envisaged in international law since 1951.

Even if this Bill succeeded in temporarily stopping the boats (and I don't think it will) it won't stop conflict or climate migration. The IPCC forecasts that climate change by itself, let alone the conflicts it's already causing, will lead to at least 800 million more refugees in total by 2050.

And what if other countries follow suit? The UNHCR has warned the Bill could lead to the collapse of the international system that protects refugees. Is that what we want the United Kingdom's contribution to be in our leadership?

Currently 80% of refugees are still in the global south, protected by the poorest countries in the world. Of course, we cannot take everyone and nor should we, but this Bill has no sense at all of the long-term and of the global nature of the challenge that the world faces. It ignores the reality that migration must be engaged with at source, as well as in the Channel, as if we, as a country, were unrelated to the rest of the world.

It is a siloed Bill, not a whole-of-Government Bill. It does not draw in conflict management and prevention, which drives migration. It does not draw in climate impacts, which drive migration and conflict. It is isolationist. It is morally unacceptable and politically impractical to let the poorest countries deal with the crisis alone, and cut our international aid.

Nor is there any measure in this Bill for engaging with the criminal gangs of traffickers directly and offensively, rather than trusting simply to what appears to be the unpredictability of market forces, as if traffickers were rationally trained, economic actors and not appalling criminals. There must be safe legal routes put in place as soon as illegal unsafe routes begin to be attacked. We cannot wait for the years that will take place before that happens.

My Lords, this Bill is an attempt at a short-term fix. It risks great damage to the UK's interests and reputation at home and abroad, let alone the interests of those in need of protection, or the nations who together face this challenge. Our interests as a nation are closely linked to our reputation for justice and the rule of law and to our measured language, calm decision and careful legislation. None of those are seen here.

Long term, globally co-ordinated solutions must be part of the way forward. This nation should lead internationally, not stand apart. I intend to table amendments at Committee stage which encourage this longer-term thinking and collaborative focus, including a plan for combatting traffickers and working with international partners to look at updating the 1951 Convention.

Nevertheless, I hope that this house will not support Lord Paddick's excellent, sympathetic and carefully put amendment. I agree with its sentiment, but I also believe that as Lord Coaker has said, it is our duty to change, not to throw out the Bill.

And finally, as one might expect from these benches, in the New Testament in Matthew Chapter 25, Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger. That call has been part of the history and culture in this country for centuries and was part of the drive for the Modern Slavery Act. I urge the Government to reconsider much of the Bill, which fails to live up to our history, our moral responsibility and our political and international interests.”

Confirmation: Thank you to parents who responded to register their children. Forms have been sent out. Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated during the weekend of 30 September when Archbishop Malcolm will be on the Island. This allows 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. The preparation sessions will take place in Ballakermeen High School at the end of the school day. Please email the parish office at saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk to enrol your child.** Many thanks to high school teachers Peter Wiles and Gerard Murphy who have again generously agreed to lead the course. Details of the preparation course will be sent out shortly to those who have returned completed forms.

- **Sacrament of the Sick:** Next **Sunday 21 May at 3pm Archbishop Malcolm will administer the Sacrament of the Sick in St Mary’s Church.** Eucharistic ministers, SVP and family members may wish to advise the sick and housebound in our parishes. This is also a rare opportunity for our sick and elderly parishioners to come to church during the day in the warmer weather to meet Archbishop Malcolm.
- **Assisted Dying:** Talks with Dr Claud Regnard, entitled ‘Assisted Dying: The Facts, The Evidence 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.
- **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, 5th century saint who inspired generations of pilgrims.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony’s £585; St Mary & St Joseph £976. Thank you for your generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 13th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	5.00pm	St Mary’s	Norah Jennings, recently died
Sunday 14th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	People of our Parishes Jocelyn Marquez & Reynaldo Cruz, decd
Monday 15th May Our Lady of Fatima	12.10 noon	St Mary’s	Sick Parishioners
Tuesday 16th May	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	Eucharistic Service Faustino & Jovita Garpao, intentions
Wednesday 17th May	12.10 noon	St Mary’s	Jonabelle Marquez, thanksgiving
Thursday 18th May Feast of the Ascension	12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Mary’s St Anthony’s	Caspar Young, recently died Patsy Murray, recently died
Friday 19th May	12.10 noon	St Mary’s	Pat Heap, sick
Saturday 20th May 7 th Sunday of Easter	11am-12.00noon 5.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Confessions & Exposition People of our Parishes
Sunday 21st May 7 th Sunday of Easter <i>World Communications Day</i>	9.30am 11.00am 3.00pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s St Mary’s	Helen Cowburn-Wood & Elizabeth Gilhooly, anniversaries Sue Manning, 70 th birthday anniversary Sacrament of the Sick

We remember **Dominic Delaney** and **Dolores Keighley** who died this week. We think of their grieving families and friends. May they have eternal rest.

Fr John’s 50th anniversary of Ordination and 75th birthday: An event to celebrate Fr John’s special milestones will take place on **Sunday 18th June from 3pm to 4.30pm in St Mary’s Church and outside in the garden** if weather permits. Finger Food Canapés & Drinks will be provided. All St Anthony’s and St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph’s parishioners are invited. However, **for catering purposes, please let the parish office know if you would like to attend, preferably by email to saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk.**