

# 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)

## Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023

(Pages 81 in new orange Mass Book)

(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle 2 for weekdays)

Dear Parishioners

Last weekend I was in Liverpool for a celebration of my 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, hosted by my family. As well as family: my sisters, brother-in-law, cousins, niece, nephews and great nieces and nephews, there were friends from childhood, school and seminary. One friend travelled all the way from the United States. It was a nice surprise. Also joining the celebration were Archbishop Malcolm and priest friends and a group from Liverpool Hope University. I am having another celebration with parishioners here on the Island on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, just two days after the actual date of my ordination anniversary. As required, on reaching the age of 75, I have offered my resignation to Archbishop Malcolm. We have agreed that I will gradually relinquish my extra archdiocesan responsibilities and then continue as parish priest for a further period depending on my health.

At the time of my ordination in 1973 the church marked the Feast of Pentecost with an octave. The eight days leading up to the Feast of the Holy Trinity were celebrated as if they were the day of Pentecost itself. Ordinations took place the day before Trinity. Those being ordained spent the week in retreat. During that silent retreat I recall the sense of being surrounded by the Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday has always been a special day for me. Over the years I have come to understand that **the ancient doctrine of the Holy Trinity reveals God as RELATIONSHIP**. God is fluid and changing but never-changing at the same time. God is faithful and reliable. God moves with us but also calls us out of ourselves towards himself. God reveals himself to us but also waits for us to find him. At the same time God is deep within us.

North American Franciscan Fr Richard Rohr reflects on the Holy Trinity as follows:

*The notion of God as Trinity is the foundation of all Christian thought, and yet it never has been - not truly! Our dualistic minds largely shelved the whole thing because we simply couldn't understand it. Most Christians do not consciously deny the Trinity, but as Karl Rahner (1904–1984) wrote, "We must be willing to admit that, should the doctrine of the Trinity have to be dropped as false, the major part of religious literature could well remain virtually unchanged." What a sad statement on our fundamental understanding of God!*

**The Trinity reveals God more as a verb than a noun**, but we rarely speak about God that way in either our preaching or our prayers. God is three "relations," which itself is mind-boggling for most believers. Yet that clarification opens up an honest notion of God as Mystery who can never be fully comprehended with our rational minds. God is dynamic - a verb rather than a static name.

*The shape of God is the shape of everything in the universe! Everything is in relationship and nothing stands alone. Trinitarian theology says that God is a "circular" rotation (perichoresis) of total outpouring and perfect receiving among three intimate partners. Historically, most of us, except for mystics, preferred the pyramid model with God the Father at the top, which then got imitated and promoted all the way down! This is no exaggeration.*

I give Anglican priest-poet, Malcolm Guite, the last word:

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.

**Lourdes Youth Quiz Night** will take place on **FRIDAY 16 JUNE** at **7.30pm** in the **Columba Club**. Please note this is a change of evening from the usual Saturday. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £7 each available from Brian Murphy on 627729 or 350070. Raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds of the evening go towards travel and accommodation for our IOM young people who help with sick pilgrims in Lourdes.

- The **Memory Support Group** will meet this **Tuesday 6 June 2023** at **10.30am to 12 noon** at **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre**. Everyone welcome. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie on 406063.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £563; St Mary & St Joseph £1,122. Thank you for your generosity.

**Fr John's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination and 75<sup>th</sup> birthday:**

Thanks to those who have let the parish office know they will attend Fr John's afternoon celebration. The caterers wish to minimise waste and costs and have been asking for final numbers so they can organise food and staff. The event to celebrate Fr John's special milestones will take place on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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. **Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend, preferably by email to [saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk)**. Collection envelopes are available at the back of Church if you would like to contribute to a gift for Fr John. Thank you.

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

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

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June</b> <i>Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Alice Temple, 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Wilomena Sullivan, recently died People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Boniface	<i>No Mass</i>		<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Paddy McAleer, anniversary
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Thanksgiving: Sarah & Jerome
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	Bridget Courtenay, recently died Intentions of Layco & Mantua Family
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b> St Columba	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Dave Prudence Tayag, special intention
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	<i>No Confessions or Exposition</i> Kathleen 'Kit' Kneen, anniversary
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b> <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Sheila Daly, recently died

**Assisted Dying Bill:** Churches Alive in Mann have asked for prayers regarding the Assisted Dying Bill to be said during each of the four Sundays in June. These will be written by a different denominational leader each week. This will give our Isle of Man Christian churches a significant point of unity in prayer. Here is the prayer for use in our churches on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, with thanks to Bishop Peter Eagles:

**Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you that you have created us in your image and likeness.**

**You are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all that can ever be.**

**Teach us to venerate and wonder at the mystery of life, and to understand that every moment of it, in sickness and in health, remains in your care, enfolded in your love, and blessed by your grace.**

**From the warmth of the womb until the stillness of the grave when, in your own good time, you call us to yourself, let us know that we are in your loving hands, our Creator and our Redeemer.**

**This we ask, Heavenly Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**