

NEWSLETTER

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

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12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 25th June 2023

(Page 93 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

It was great to see so many of you at last Sunday afternoon's celebration for my 75th Birthday and 50th Anniversary of my Ordination. The weather was perfect. The rain didn't fall until everyone had left for home. Thank you for your most generous cheque. I am really humbled by your kindness. It was good to share with you some of the highlights of my life in the rolling photo display. Approximately 230 adults attended along with children. It's good that a representative cross section of our parishioners made an effort to attend. Many have remarked on the informal friendly and happy atmosphere. The occasion made me feel proud to be your priest. Thanks to those of you who helped on the day. I was also moved by the Manx Bard's composition and personal delivery of a poem in my honour. I first got to know Michael Manning in his work for the Manx homeless charity, GRAIH, a charity which St Mary's, St Joseph's and St Anthony's have supported over the years.

The Divine

The sheer silence now has spoken: 'Come, and follow me.

Come and find the narrow tracks, the wounded way.

Come and join me on my mission to set all people free,

with tong-seared lips to sing of Christ's great dawning day.

Long have you followed, borne by the Spirit's breath,

walked with the poor in hope, in dust, dismay,

wept with their tears, prayed in birth and death,

broken all the truth you had to give new life,

crossed the seas and culture's deep dark breadth

and dared to seek the peace in midst of strife.

It was the blessing of presence, the knots untied,

the tender healing after bitter words and knife,

another generation brought to the Saviour's side.

It was the way you made a small, scared boy a person,

patient shepherd of the love both vast and wide.

And think you now this radiant race is run?'

The still small voice speaks yet in invitation,

'Ride up to the mountain, your adventure's not yet done.

I'll lead you to fresh joyful heights of revelation.'

Michael Manning

Eighth Manx Bard

18 June 2023

The days following the celebration have seen a stark return to normality. Three **Marriage** rehearsals and one wedding, **Baptism** preparation and the start of our **Confirmation** Preparation classes along with meetings via zoom for the Archdiocese. Thirty-five young people from Ballakermeen, St Ninian's and QE2 High Schools attended our first session of Confirmation Preparation at Ballakermeen. We are grateful to Mr Graeme Corrin for allowing us to use BHS for our classes and to the teachers, Mr Gerard Murphy and Mr Peter Wiles, for leading the sessions.

Some fourteen families attended the most recent Baptism Preparation course in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. It's great to hear parents and godparents answering the question 'Why do you want to have your child Baptised?' I tell them there are no wrong answers. Invariably they respond by saying that it's what their parents did for them and what their grandparents did for their parents. The book of Exodus speaks of God as the Father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Our faith is passed from generation to generation right up to the present day. That faith can be difficult to put into words. Most of us are ashamed that we don't have enough of it. We blow hot and cold. Faith is a gift, and we only get a little bit. But it's enough. Faith is a gift but we sometimes wonder if it's there at all. God is the stronger partner in this relationship and his faith in us is stronger than our faith in him. We are a community of faith and we often rely on the community to carry us in our faith.

In **Confirmation** our young people have the chance to make their own the faith they have inherited from their parents. They had no choice in their Baptism. They can now choose to be Confirmed. Their interactions and discussion within a group of their peers is invaluable in the development of a grown-up faith. It doesn't mean that their understanding and questioning of that faith is over. Faith is not static. It flexes and bends throughout our lives and sometimes seems to disappear. In Confirmation a young person is committed to continuing to explore what that faith might mean for ME. And that's a lifelong task.

- The **Memory Support Group** will next meet on **Tuesday 4th July** from **10.30am-12 noon** in **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre**. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. For any more information, please contact Josie on 406063.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for **St Anthony's** will be emptied over the next 2 weeks. If you have a box, please leave it in the usual place in the church porch at St Anthony's.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £430; St Mary & St Joseph £856. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

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| Saturday 24th June The Birth of St John the Baptist 12 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | 5.00pm | St Mary's | John Smith, anniversary |
| Sunday 25th June 12 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | 9.30am 11.00am | St Anthony's St Mary's | Peter McCabe, 2 nd anniversary People of our Parishes |
| Monday 26th June | <i>No Mass today</i> | | |
| Tuesday 27th June St John Southworth St Cyril of Alexandria Our Lady of Perpetual Succour | 10.00am 12.10 noon | St Anthony's St Mary's | <i>Eucharistic Service</i> Jonabelle Marquez & family, thanksgiving |
| Wednesday 28th June St Irenaeus | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Jane Harrison, recently died |
| Thursday 29th June HOLY DAY Solemnity of Sts Peter & Paul | 12.10 noon 7.00pm | St Mary's St Anthony's | Trudy Cooper, recently died Gerard O'Hanlon, recently died |
| Friday 30th June First Martyrs of the See of Rome | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Albin & Bincy, thanksgiving |
| Saturday 1st July St Oliver Plunket 13 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | 11.00 to 12.00 noon 5.00pm | St Mary's St Mary's | Confessions and Exposition People of our Parishes |
| Sunday 2nd July 13 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | 9.30am 11.00am | St Anthony's St Mary's | Alan Bridson, recently died Mary & Patrick Reaney, anniversary |

Assisted Dying Bill: Here is the final prayer from Churches Alive in Mann for use in our churches on Sunday 25th June, with thanks to **Revd Bill Leishman**:

Loving Father, life is a precious gift from you. Help us to recognise your sacred image in all people.

Give strength, wisdom and effectiveness as we stand against the proposed Assisted Dying Bill. Teach us to trust in your sovereign care from the cradle to the grave.

Lord Jesus, as you reached out in love and compassion, help us in your name to protect the vulnerable and to seek justice for the voiceless.

Holy Spirit, You establish Christ's Kingdom on Earth. Help us, and our MHKs and MLCs: to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Living God, help us to work and pray in your strength. Please have mercy on our Island. Deliver us from a culture of death and may we all be assisted to live. We ask this in the strong and merciful name of Jesus, depending on the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Bill can be found at <https://www.tynwald.org.im/spfile?file=/business/bills/Bills/Assisted-Dying-Bill-2023.pdf>. The House of Keys' Order Paper for Tuesday 27 June 2023 indicates that the First Reading of the Assisted Dying Bill will take place at that sitting. The next session will be in October.