

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 Website www.manxcatholic.org

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 15th October 2023

(Page 140 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

We have been waiting for the decision on when the **Inauguration of the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle**, will take place. Archbishop Malcolm has now confirmed it is to be held at **12.00 noon on Friday 3rd November 2023**. The final piece of the jigsaw is that the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, the Holy Father's representative to Great Britain, is able to be personally present at the Inauguration of the church of Saint Mary of the Isle as co-cathedral of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. As Nuncio, Archbishop Buendia played a key role in securing cathedral status for St Mary's on our behalf. At the start of the ceremony Archbishop Malcolm and the Nuncio will knock at the church door to gain admittance. The parish priest will then lead them to the altar where the Nuncio will proclaim the decree from Pope Francis elevating our church to cathedral status. Acting on behalf of the Pope, he will then formally install Archbishop Malcolm in his seat or *cathedra* on the sanctuary. The Archbishop's chair, decorated with a specially designed coat of arms, will henceforth remain fixed in place as a permanent reminder that St Mary's church is a Cathedral.

The ceremony will be attended by Canons of the Metropolitan Cathedral chapter of Christ the King in Liverpool who will also take their seats in the choir stalls. November 3rd 2023 will be an historic day, not just in the life of St Mary's, but also in the life of the church in the British Isles. Bishops of other dioceses in England and Wales have also been invited. But the ceremony will be a Manx occasion attended by the President of Tynwald and the Mayor of Douglas who will both have a part to play along with the Dean of St German's Cathedral in Peel – our sister cathedral – as well as other ecumenical leaders and civic dignitaries. I am delighted that the children's choir from St Mary's Primary School will be present to sing for us along with our regular adult choir.

Announcement of the date has been dependent not only on Archbishop Malcolm's availability and that of other bishops and canons, but specifically on the Apostolic Nuncio's ability to attend. Of necessity the Archbishop has chosen a weekday. A midday event allows visitors from across to travel to the Island and back on the same day. Bishops have longstanding Confirmation and parish visitation commitments and the canons have weekend responsibilities in their own parishes. Our civic leaders will have a part to play in this historic occasion - an important moment not just for St Mary's church, but also for the catholic and ecumenical community across the Island.

It is impossible to predict how many people will want to attend. This creates difficulties not just for catering but also for arranging seating for our official guests. It is hoped that many people from both our parishes will be able to attend. **It is essential, however, that you let us know if you wish to do so by email before Friday 27 October.** Drinks and canapés will be served immediately after the short service.

This week saw the end of our **Novena to Mary Untier of Knots**. Some parishioners attended all the sessions, others attended those relating to particular themes and even more participated online – not just from our own parishes but also from further afield.

If ever there was a knot that needs untying it is the knot of conflict and brutality in Israel/Palestine. Pope Francis has appealed for peace and restraint. Speaking at the Wednesday General Audience this week, **Pope Francis expressed his "sorrow and concern" for the war that has broken out between Israel and Hamas**, an Islamist militant organization operating in Palestine. He mourned the many people who have been killed and injured. *"I pray for those families who have seen a day of celebration turned into a day of mourning and ask for the immediate release of the hostages,"* he said. *"It is the right of those who are attacked to defend themselves".* However, *he expressed concern for the "total siege facing the Palestinians in Gaza, where there have also been many innocent victims."* Pope Francis invited both parties to restraint in hopes of reaching a solution to the war. *"Terrorism and extremism do not help to reach a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, but fuel hatred, violence and revenge, causing suffering to both sides,"* he said. (Vatican News)

'Jewish Voices for Peace' have issued the following statement:

The Israeli government has declared a genocidal war on the people of Gaza. As an organization that works for a future where Palestinians and Israelis and all people live in equality and freedom, we call on all people of conscience to stop imminent genocide of Palestinians. Jewish Voices for Peace mourns deeply for the over 1,200 Israelis killed, the families destroyed, including many of our own, and fears for the lives of Israelis taken hostage. Many are still counting the dead, looking for missing loved ones, devastated by the losses.....

We call on all people of conscience to stop the imminent genocide of Palestinians A future of peace and safety for all, grounded in justice, freedom and equality for all, is still the only option.

- The **Annual Fairtrade Sale** will be held from **Thursday 26th to Saturday 28th October** from **10am to 6.30pm** in the **Cooill Chapel Hall** above the IOM Business Park. **Lunches supporting 3 Developing World Charities will be served from 12 noon to 2pm each day.** A warm welcome to all.
- *Save the Date:* **St Peter's Mother's Union, Onchan** would like to invite ladies from our church to an afternoon of Christmas entertainment with Wendy McDowell and refreshments on **Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 2pm** at the Village Hall, Onchan (top of Royal Avenue) along with our friends from the Methodist Church in Onchan.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £345; St Mary & St Joseph £978. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 14th October			
28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 15th October	9.30am	St Anthony's	Joan Corran, 7 th anniversary
28 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Joe Greene, 25 th birthday anniversary
Monday 16th October			
St Margaret Mary Alacoque	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Tim O'Sullivan, recently died (Co. Kerry)
Tuesday 17th October	10.00am	St Anthony's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
St Ignatius of Antioch	12.10 noon	St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Wednesday 18th October			
St Luke	12.00 noon	St Mary's	<i>Requiem Mass: Martin Paterson</i>
Thursday 19th October	10.00am	St Anthony's	Rosa & Cesare Leonetti, anniversary
St John de Brebeuf and St Isaac Jogues and Companions	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Catherine Tayag, special intention
Friday 20th October	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Jean Connors, recently died
Saturday 21st October	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
29 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	John Coyle, 2 nd anniversary
Sunday 22nd October	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
29 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Mike Joe Hennessy, anniversary
<i>World Mission Day</i>			

We hold in our prayers this week our parishioner **Martin Paterson**, a young husband and father who has died. We think of his sorrowing wife, young children and parents who grieve his loss.

It was good to see a group of parishioners at Broadway Baptist Church for the Churches Alive in Mann Prayer Evening about the upcoming Assisted Dying Bill. Given that the most likely date for the crucial second reading of the Bill in Tynwald is 31st of October, we were informed that **the optimum time to contact your MHK regarding opposition to the bill would be week beginning 23rd October.** Individual letters carry more weight with MHKs than collective petitions.

A leaflet at the back of our churches gives some guidelines on what you might say in expressing your concerns such as:

- In every place where Assisted Dying has been legalised the boundaries are gradually stretched to include more instances when it is permitted.
- It is impossible to guard against coercion of the vulnerable.
- It sends a message that suicide is 'normal'.

Thanks are due to Rev Bill Leishman of Broadway Baptist Church for taking the lead on this issue on behalf of church leaders of all denominations.

Dame Cecily Saunders, a pioneer of the palliative care and the hospice movement had this to say: **'A fundamental principle of palliative care is neither to hasten nor to postpone death. Palliative care is about care at the end of life, not about ending life.'**

Reporting on his recent conversation on Euthanasia with French President Emmanuel Macron, **Pope Francis** said **'I told him my view, clearly, you don't play with life, not at the beginning, and not at the end. You don't play with it.'**