

## NEWSLETTER

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

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

(Page 154 in Mass book)

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



Dear Parishioners

The message we usually get when we come to church is to 'try harder'. But the spiritual life is not a self-improvement programme. Ruth Burrows, a Carmelite sister who died in 2023 at the age of 100 speaks of her own spiritual journey:

*St Teresa of Avila assures her Carmelite sisters that one day of humbling self-knowledge – she has in mind days of stress when, in close relationships with others, our nerves are set on edge and our tempers frayed and we see ourselves as we are, selfish, unloving creatures - one such day, she says, is of far greater value than hours spent in meditation. Our days are strewn with graces that we do not recognise: opportunities, for instance, of letting another take precedence or receive the credit for something we ourselves have said or done; of refraining from profuse excuses when we have made mistakes and shown ourselves incompetent. A thousand and one things happen that wound our self-love. Let it be, let it be!*

*If only we knew Jesus, we would not be so concerned with putting on a good show and of how others see us. Instead of concealing our insecurities, fears, secret failings even from ourselves, we would accept the reality that we are tranquil in the certainty that our Lord looks on us with infinite compassion and love.....*

*It is so difficult for us to grasp the reality of the Incarnation; the truth that our great God, our holy Creator, has, so we may say, thrown off his robes of grandeur and run out in eagerness to meet us, to be with us where we are. There are promises of this in the Old Testament: "I will dwell in your midst", "Emmanuel". It is simply too good to be true. I know no writer who has so conveyed to us the tender, incredible nearness of our Lord to us as **Julian of Norwich**: "He that is highest and mightiest, noblest and worthiest, is lowest and meekest, holiest and most courteous" .....*

*I understood that, with divine passion, God wants to love us to fulfilment, and I understood that for this to happen we must surrender to him every single key of the kingdom of self. I understood that, without realizing it, our spiritual life is as often as not self-seeking. We are intent of creating a beautiful self into which God will be privileged to enter! We want to feel we are good, pure and holy; we want to be lifted up out of the drab reality of our human condition. We want a holiness of our own. I understood that God, in his love, must destroy all this self-seeking and that our happiness depends on our allowing him to do so.*

'Love Unknown' by **Ruth Burrows** – Order of Discalced Carmelites (1923-2023)

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**"Woke" should not be used as a negative term, the Church of England's first black female bishop has said**, in a stinging rebuke against government ministers and others "who are threatened" by the social justice movement. Such people want others to think it was a "sin created by the left", the Right Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the bishop of Dover, told the C of E's ruling assembly, the General Synod...

Hudson-Wilkin, who was appointed as a C of E bishop in 2019, said: "When it comes to the topic of racial justice, I have heard the word 'woke' being bandied about by many people, including government ministers, certain radio presenters and those in the media. And in every case, they've used it incorrectly. **The term woke originated in the USA and it was a black terminology, speaking specifically and directly to black people regarding the need to wake up and stay alert, to be consciously aware.** So, it is not just a mere word, it is a movement. Those who are threatened by the authenticity of this movement want to scare us into thinking that being woke is a sin created by people on the left. But as the people of God, we should never be afraid or embarrassed of being called an advent people, always in the business of preparing and staying alert.

"So, I want to address the elephant in the room .... in case there is anybody nurturing those incorrect thoughts and mumbling under one's breath or to your neighbour, 'here we go again', negatively using the term woke. **We must remain awake to the reality that the church's commitment to racial justice is not the church attempting to follow the world's direction of travel regarding inclusion, equality and diversity, but instead it is a given. It comes from a deep desire to follow the lead of Christ.**"

She added: "The racial justice mandate flows not from identity politics, but from our primary identity in Christ. The gospel calls us to prophetically address head-on the evils in our society, indeed in our world, which leave some parts of humanity dehumanised". The issue of racial justice was not an "optional extra that we can choose to address if we

feel like it”, she said, adding that “lip service will not do, and neither will ticking boxes”. Rather, the “church’s feet must be held to the fire”. (Harriet Sherwood, *the Guardian* Sun 25 Feb 2024)

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called for a **Day of Prayer for the Holy Land** and says: “As we are all aware, the situation in the Holy Land has not improved, with failed negotiations, increasing humanitarian distress and a rising death toll. And so I ask that, on **Friday 8th March**, there is a special focus of prayer for the Holy Land. This could take the form of a dedicated time of prayer, perhaps before the Blessed Sacrament, for peace in the Holy Land.”  
**Accordingly, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with an opportunity for silent prayer this Friday at the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle from immediately after the 12.10 Mass until 3.00pm.** Fr John

- **T and Chat** will meet on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30 - 12noon**. Do come along. Everyone will be warmly welcomed, refreshments served. This group is supported by the SVP. Please contact Josie Lorimer 406063 for further information.
- **Ecumenical Lent Course** continues at **St Peter’s Church, Onchan on Tuesdays at 7.30pm** on 5, 12, 19 & 26 March. This is a gentle reflective course using ‘**The King’s Speech**’ which focuses on finding our voice and identity in Christ.
- **Community Connect** is a new initiative by the **Salvation Army** at Ballacottier Crescent, IOM Business Park, Braddan, IM2 2QZ to reach out to those in our community who feel isolated and lonely. A café style space will be offered where volunteers and visitors can play board games together, share hobbies and activities or simply chat in a relaxed and welcoming environment. A place where it’s OK not to be OK. **Connect** will meet each Thursday from 10.30am to 12 noon commencing 7 March 2024.
- **Island Spirituality Network:** Next meeting on **Saturday 10 February** from **10am to 1pm** in St John’s Mill with guest speaker Jenny Sinclair, founder of ‘Together for the Common Good’, a charity that works to build a common life and social cohesion in today’s fractured society. Jenny was inspired by her father, former Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, David Sheppard, and his collaborative labours with our former Archbishop, Derek Worlock, who strove together for the common good for the people of the city of Liverpool. All welcome.
- **Lenten Lunches** of homemade soup, bread & butter, desserts, tea and coffee will be served in St Anthony’s Pastoral Centre **each Thursday during Lent** from 12.30 until 2pm. Cost £8. All proceeds to IOM Hospice. Everyone welcome.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for **St Anthony’s Church** will be emptied next week. If you have a box, please leave it in St Anthony’s church porch in the usual place.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £925, St Anthony’s £475. This does not include standing orders or the tap and pay machine at the back of St Mary’s church. As always 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	5.00pm	St Mary’s	Brendan Murphy, recently died
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	Jack Smart, anniversary People of our Parishes
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	12.10pm	St Mary’s	John Byrne, recently died
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Derek Kenna, deceased
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Mary’s St Anthony’s	John & Alexander Wright, anniversaries <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> St Perpetua, St Felicity	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	Lyla Hanlon, sick Tony, Peter & Margaret, anniversaries
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> St John of God	12.10 noon 12.40pm to 3pm 2.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s <i>Crematorium</i>	Shirley Savage, recently died <b>Exposition &amp; Silent Prayer for Holy Land</b> <b>Funeral Service: Lenny McCormick</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Exposition and Confessions Peter Lees, anniversary
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	People of our Parishes Sue & Kevin Manning, anniversaries

‘In this time of Lent, let us strive not to put ourselves at the centre. Rather, let us try to step aside to make room for others, to promote them and to rejoice in their qualities and successes.’ *Pope Francis 28 February 2024*