

NEWSLETTER

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

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 24th March 2024

(Page 176 in Mass book)

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



Holy Week

Dear Parishioners

This week **Her Majesty the Queen** visited the island. I was introduced to Queen Camilla by the Mayor. As the mayor's chaplain I composed and led the prayers in the Council chamber at the start of the ceremony in which Douglas's status as a city was formally granted. The Queen read the speech that King Charles would have delivered had he been well enough to attend. In that speech the Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle got a mention as the new Co-Cathedral to the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool.

Living on the island, it's not often I get to priests' funerals. As well as supporting their families and friends, clergy funerals provide an opportunity to share memories with fellow priests. These evoke peals of laughter in the sacristy as we recall the absurdities of life in the seminary and our times together in parishes over the years. On Tuesday I was at the funeral of **Canon Vincent Burrowes**. He was 97, probably the last of a number of priests who were called up during the Second World War. For Vincent, as with several others, this involved a break in his seminary training at Upholland. But his time in the army did as much (if not more) for his future life as a priest as years studying theology and canon law.

We no longer have our own seminary. **St Joseph's College Upholland** finally closed its doors at the turn of the Millennium. In its heyday it housed a community of hundreds of seminarians and staff. I had already spent thirteen years there as a student. After my return from Peru, I spent a further ten years exploring endless potential alternative uses for the building. It was considered by the Home Office as a possible prison; by the army as a training centre; by a Bank as a headquarters; by Pru Leith as a centre for cuisine throughout the ages; by the Muslim Community as a girls' boarding school; by a university as a centre for students from the US. One potential buyer considered installing a glass roof over the quadrangle to make it into a Zoo. Another proposed installing a miniature railway; yet another saw its future as an international equestrian centre; all to no avail.

Canon Vincent was an Upholland man. And so were Bishop John Rawsthorne who presided at his funeral and Fr Bill Murphy who preached the homily. As they talked of Vincent's seminary days it more effectively triggered my own memories as a student than the ten extra years I lived there in a forlorn shell. I reconnected once again with the shared rigours of seminary life and the humour that enabled us to survive, and maybe thrive. Upholland's legacy isn't entirely obliterated. At a recent Archdiocesan meeting of deans, we realised that only one of the thirteen deans hadn't spent some years there as part of their journey to ordination.

I met one priest at Canon Vincent's funeral who wasn't an Upholland man, **Monsignor Peter Ryan**, former parish priest at St Mary's. Originally an Anglican priest, Peter trained at the Beda College in Rome. He has recently returned to the Archdiocese after some years' retirement in Leamington. He looks amazingly well for a priest in his nineties. Monsignor Peter asked me to 'kiss the Island on both cheeks'. I invited him to visit us. He's looking forward to it.

The **Isle of Man Deanery Synodal Council** met on Thursday evening. Members considered the report of the **Archdiocesan Synodal Council** (ASC) held on 25th November 2023. Members from the Isle of Man had participated via live stream.

Discussion at Thursday's meeting considered the 2nd 'Area' or theme '**Becoming A Church That Accompanies People Through Life**' and considered what that might mean on the Island. Some felt the church had always been open to those on the edges. Others recognised that the church was increasingly adopting a less judgmental approach when engaging with Catholics who, although not regular attenders, still turned to the church at key moments in their lives. A recent survey from the Catholic Diocese of Brentwood indicated that three-quarters of those who no longer attended church still identified as Catholic.

It was also agreed that the Island's priests would resume the practice of periodic '**pulpit swaps**' and that steps be taken to identify ways in which we might better engage with **young people**.

Members also felt that the '**Families of Parishes**' initiative, highlighted in the Archbishop's recent Pastoral Letter, might be better publicised. This concept describes how individual parishes cluster together to share resources etc. Taking into account the geographical reality of life on the Island, three Families of Parishes have been identified:

St Patrick, Our Lady Star of the Sea + St Maughold. Peel/Ramsey

St Mary + St Columba. Castletown/Port Erin

St Mary of the Isle + St Joseph, St Anthony of Padua. Douglas/ Onchan

It was noted that the two churches in Castletown and Port Erin already work in partnership and constitute a single parish. The full report and responses from the ASC meeting are available at the back of church. *Fr John*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2024

Maundy Thursday 28th March: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's at 7.00pm. This will be followed by 'watching' at the Altar of Repose concluding with **Night Prayer at 9.30pm.**

Good Friday 29th March: There will be TWO celebrations of The Lord's Passion: 12.00 noon at St Anthony's and 3.00pm at St Mary's.

Holy Saturday 30th March at 12 noon: Traditional Blessing of Food Baskets for the Polish Community at St Mary's.

Holy Saturday 30th March at 7.30pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Mary's.

Easter Sunday 31st March: Masses as normal: 9.30am at St Anthony's; 11.00am at St Mary's.

- St German's Cathedral Choir Lay Clerks present **Thomas Tallis' Lamentations 1 & 2** on **Monday 25th March at 7.30pm at St Patrick's Church, Peel.** Admission free. Everyone welcome.
- This **Tuesday 26th March at 7.30pm** is the final session of the **Ecumenical Lent Course** in **St Peter's Church, Onchan.**
- The **Lenten Lunches** each Thursday during Lent have raised a magnificent total of **£1600** for IOM Hospice. Big thanks to all who helped and supported each week. There will be NO Lenten lunches next week on Holy Thursday.
- A **Walk of Witness** will take place on **Good Friday** starting at 9.30am at St Anthony's, along the Promenade praying the stations, through Strand Street and finishing at St Mary's around 11.30am. All welcome.
- **Easter Sunday Morning Sunrise Service at 6.40am on Douglas Beach** (*meet at the bottom of Broadway*). This traditional ecumenical service will be followed by breakfast baps at St Thomas' Church, Finch Rd, Douglas.
- **T and Chat** will meet on **Tuesday 2nd April from 10.30 – 12noon.** Win Kewley has kindly agreed to join us for a card making and craft session. Do come along. Everyone will be warmly welcomed, refreshments served. The T and Chat group is supported by the SVP who help people throughout our parishes. Please contact Josie Lorimer 406063.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £931. St Anthony's £480. This does not include standing orders or the tap and pay machine at the back of St Mary's church. Sincere thanks for your generosity.

Masses and Services for the coming week

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

Saturday 23rd March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 24th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Ivan Park, 80 th birthday Mary McCarthy Glynn, anniversary
Monday 25th March <i>(Annunciation now on 8 April)</i>	12.10pm	St Mary's	Mary & Norah Gallagher
Tuesday 26th March	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Paul Corkill, recently died
Wednesday 27th March	12.10 noon 7.00pm	St Mary's St Anthony's	John Wright Stations of the Cross
Thursday 28th March HOLY THURSDAY	7.00pm	St Mary's	Michael McCarrick, anniversary Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 29th March GOOD FRIDAY	12.00 noon 3.00pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Celebration of the Lord's Passion Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 30th March HOLY SATURDAY	11.00am to 12noon 12.00noon	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions Blessing of Food for Polish Community
Easter Vigil Mass	7.30pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 31st March EASTER SUNDAY	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	Peter Lees, 2 nd anniversary Maria & John Johnson, 60 th wedding anniv

We remember in our prayers our parishioner **Norma Callaghan** who died this week. May she rest in peace. We think of her grieving family and friends who mourn her loss. Norma's Requiem Mass will take place on 11 April.