

## 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 Easter, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

*(Page 258 in Mass book)*

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

Dear Parishioners,

We love to criticise politicians. Yet there is something refreshing about former politicians, retired from elected office, being unafraid to speak the truth. I share an account of a recent lecture by the Speaker of the UK House of Lords, **Lord McFall of Alcluith**. He speaks of the importance of religion in the public square and how one enriches the other:

*The Speaker of the House of Lords, Lord McFall of Alcluith, has urged politicians to remember the importance of humility when seeking to improve society.*

*At an event hosted by the international mission and development organisation, Jesuit Missions, on Wednesday 20th March, the Lord Speaker drew on his experience as a former political representative, when discussing the responsibility that comes with being a parliamentarian.*

***In his personal talk, delivered at the London Jesuit Centre in Mayfair, Lord McFall drew parallels between politics and religion, suggesting "humility" and "common purpose" should act as "watchwords" for both.***

*"The more I've been in politics, the more I appreciate that we need to be humble," he said.*

*"We live in a discordant, fractured world, where we encounter polarisation, populism and post-truth. While I've now got a non-political role, I still observe these issues."*

*Lord McFall, who served as an MP for 23 years before entering the House of Lords in 2010, pointed out that both religion and politics are meant to work for **the common good**, and that there is often crossover between the two.*

*He spoke of **Pope Leo XIII's** support for workers' rights in 1891 in "**Rerum Novarum**", **Pope Benedict XVI's** criticism of governments' approach to dealing with trade unions and the mismanaged response to the 2007-08 banking crisis cited by **Pope Francis**.*

*He encouraged everyone, including politicians, to use the best elements of religion - "faith, hope and charity" - in their lives.*

*Referencing the Old Testament book of Micah, Lord McFall recalled: "This is what Yahweh asks of us. Only this. To act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God."*

*The Director of Jesuit Missions, Paul Chitnis, said: "In a world where hope feels in short supply at the moment, it is vital to have public figures like Lord McFall reminding us that faith communities play an important role in building a more just and hopeful national and global society."*

*Before entering the Lords in 2010, Lord McFall was a Labour MP between 1987 and 2010, first for Dumbarton and later for West Dunbartonshire. During his time as an MP, he served as a Minister in the Northern Ireland Office and as a Government Whip.*

*He also chaired the Treasury Select Committee between 2001 and 2010, driving its work to scrutinise the key players during the global banking and financial crisis and making major recommendations to ensure reform of the sector. (Independent Catholic News 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024)*

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This week another member of the UK House of Lords was equally plain-speaking in his evidence to the Public Enquiry into the UK Post Office. Refuting claims by senior PO executives that "lots and lots of cash lying around in unexpected places" might have meant sub-postmasters were led "into temptation", rather than accept IT failings, **Lord Arbuthnot**, a former MP, accused the Post Office of running a '**behind-the-scenes deception process**'. He told the inquiry that he was repeatedly told by ministers that the Post Office was "arm's length" from the government but said this was akin to owning a dangerous dog. "You cannot say that the dangerous dog has an arm's-length relationship with you if the dangerous dog behaves badly." It's good when lies are confronted by truth, and power is held to account by those no longer compromised by being part of the 'system' themselves.

A few weeks ago, the Island Spirituality Network hosted **Jenny Sinclair**, founder member of **Together for the Common Good**. Daughter of the late **Bishop David Sheppard**, Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, she recalled the pioneering ecumenical partnership between her father and **Archbishop Derek Worlock**. Together for the Common

Good continues their work of promoting Christian values in the public realm. Her own faith journey has brought her into the Catholic church. She shared this prayer:

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

- **Come Holy Spirit. We welcome you here in our midst**
- **Govern our hearts and minds, govern every aspect of our time together**
- **Be in every thought and word, in every intention and motive**
- **Lord, we thank you for those who have been an inspiration to us**
- **Thank you for calling us through the Gospel to work together, and for each other**
- **We pray for others working for the Common Good and for those who resist it**
- **Bind us together across our traditions and move our hearts' desire closer to the heart of your desire for us**
- **Lord, give us the grace to do your will and make our mission a joy**

**In the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**An Important Date for your Diaries:** Churches Alive in Mann or **CAIM** – the leaders of the Island’s major Christian Denominations – are organising another event on the **Assisted Dying Bill**. It is to equip and motivate us in our opposition to the proposed Assisted Dying Bill and how we can more effectively bring our concerns to MHKs. This event will take place in our own **Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Douglas at 7.30 pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**. Refreshments will be provided.

- **T and Chat Group** will meet on 7<sup>th</sup> May at St Anthony’s Pastoral Centre from 10.30am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be served. Please come along. You will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Josie Lorimer on 406063 for more information. Thanks to Win Kewley who kindly demonstrated some card making at the last meeting.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £965. St Anthony’s £466. 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*

<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	5.00pm	St Mary’s	Trevor Doyle, recently died
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	People of our Parishes Nuala & Tony, Golden Anniversary
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>No Mass or Service</i>		<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b> St Bernadette	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Tommy Phelan, deceased
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10pm	St Mary’s	Margaret Thorpe, 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday, sick
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	<b>Requiem Mass: Michael Egerton</b> Norma Callaghan, recently died
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	12.10pm 1.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Michael Dowler, deceased <b>Funeral Service: Dave Oliver</b>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary’s St Mary’s	Exposition and Confessions Brendan Murphy, recently died
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Vocations</i> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony’s St Mary’s	People of our Parishes Michael McCarrick intentions

We remember parishioners **Jordan Thomas, Michael Egerton, Fran Quayle** and **Dave Oliver** who died recently. May they rest in peace. We think of their grieving families and friends who mourn their loss.

True encounter with Christ liberates something in us, a power we did not know we had, a hope, a capacity for life, a resilience, an ability to bounce back when we thought we were completely defeated, a capacity to grow and change, a power of creative transformation. *Thomas Merton, He Is Risen*