

NEWSLETTER

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

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Pentecost Sunday, 19th May 2024

(Page 286 in Mass book)

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



Dear Parishioners,

*This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost**. We celebrate the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles and Mary in the upper room. On Sunday afternoon I have been invited to preach at a special Pentecost service in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool. We will then process together along Hope Street to the Liverpool Anglican cathedral, the same route taken by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1982. More than 1 million people turned out to greet him.*

*I attach the sermon given by Pope Francis on the Feast of Pentecost on 31st May 2020. He calls the Holy Spirit **'The Memory of God'**:*

Let us go back to the origin of the Church, to the day of Pentecost. Let us look at the Apostles: some of them were fishermen, simple people accustomed to living by the work of their hands, but there were also others, like Matthew, who was an educated tax collector..... They were all different. Jesus did not change them; he did not make them into a set of pre-packaged models. No. He left their differences and now he unites them by **anointing them with the Holy Spirit**. With the *anointing* comes their *union* – *union* in diversity. At Pentecost, the Apostles understand the unifying power of the Spirit. They see it with their own eyes when everyone, though speaking in different languages, comes together as one people: the people of God, shaped by the Spirit, who weaves unity from diversity and bestows harmony because in the Spirit there *is* harmony. He himself *is* harmony.

Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: "What is it that unites us, **what is the basis of our unity?**". We too have our differences, for example: of opinions, choices, sensibilities. But the temptation is always fiercely to defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do. This is a bad temptation that brings division. But this is a faith created in our own image; it is not what the Spirit wants. We might think that what unite us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: **our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that we are *God's beloved children; all equal, in this respect, and all different***. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. **The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus**. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God.....

If we go back to the day of Pentecost, we discover that **the first task of the Church is *proclamation***. Yet we also see that the Apostles devised no strategy; when they were locked in there, in the Upper Room, they were not strategizing, no, they were not drafting any pastoral plan..... They could have also waited a while before beginning their preaching in order to understand more deeply the teachings of Jesus, so as to avoid risks..... No. The Spirit does not want the memory of the Master to be cultivated in small groups locked in upper rooms where it is easy to "nest". This is a terrible disease that can also infect the Church: making her into a nest instead of a community, a family or a Mother. The Spirit itself opens doors and pushes us to press beyond what has already been said and done, beyond the precincts of a timid and wary faith. In the world, unless there is tight organisation and a clear strategy, things fall apart. In the Church, however, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message. **The Apostles set off: unprepared yet putting their lives on the line**. One thing kept them going: *the desire to give what they received*. The opening part of the First Letter of Saint John is beautiful: "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you" (cf. 1:3).

Here we come to understand what the secret of unity is, the secret of the Spirit. The secret of unity in the Church, the secret of the Spirit is *gift*. For the Spirit himself *is* gift: he lives by giving himself and in this way keeps us together, making us sharers in the same gift....But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. The Spirit, *the living memory of the Church*, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving, not by holding on but by giving of ourselves.

Brothers and sisters, let us pray to him: **Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in us the memory of the gift received. Free us from the paralysis of selfishness and awaken in us the desire to serve, to do good. Even worse than this**

crisis is the tragedy of squandering it by closing in on ourselves. Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, to become one family. Amen.

- This week saw welcome news of the appointment of **the Venerable Patricia Hillas as Bishop of Sodor and Man**. She is currently Archdeacon and Canon of Westminster and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons in the UK. Along with leaders of the other Christian denominations, I had the opportunity to welcome her and her husband Andrew to the Island on Thursday. We look forward to working closely with her as we did with Bishop Peter Eagles and his wife Gail.
- Next Weekend, 25th/26th May an unexpected vacancy in **Archbishop Malcolm's** diary is allowing him to visit our parish. At our 11am Mass he will dedicate the plaque commemorating the elevation of St Mary of the Isle to cathedral status and bless a new sculpture of **St Maughold** by Manx artist **Shane Lucas**. A matching sculpture will be installed in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool at a future date. *Fr John*

- **Tallis Consort Concert:** On **Tuesday 21st May** at **7.30pm** in **St Mary's**, the **Tallis Consort** will perform "Byrdsong", a programme of nature-inspired Spring choral music including the première of 'Hymsee Mee Speyr', a new setting of words by Annie Kissack. Entry is free. All welcome.
- **Praying the Keeills Week** is taking place from 18 – 25 May. An opportunity to visit some of the Island's keeills. The theme this year is 'The Sea'. For more information on the daily events go to www.prayingthekeeills.org.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,131. St Anthony's £540. 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 18th May			
<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Brenda McCabe, sick
Sunday 19th May	9.30am	St Anthony's	People of our Parishes
<i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	11.00am	St Mary's	Jane Harrison, 1 st anniversary
Monday 20th May Our Lady, Mother of the Church	12.10pm	St Mary's	Adam Burrows, deceased
Tuesday 21st May	10.00am 12.10pm 7.30pm	St Anthony's St Mary's St Mary's	Eucharistic Service Karen Scanlon, anniversary Tallis Consort Concert: "Byrdsong"
Wednesday 22nd May	10.45am 12.00noon	Crematorium St Mary's	Funeral Service: Anne-Marie Graham Requiem Mass: Una Kelly
Thursday 23rd May Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Micheal Brenan, recently died John Kenny, recently died
Friday 24th May	12.10pm	St Mary's	Mildred Gilhooly, anniversary
Saturday 25th May	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Jean Grubb, recently died
Sunday 26th May	9.30am	St Anthony's	John & Yvonne McCarrick, intentions
<i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

We keep in our prayers this week the husband and family of our parishioner **Una Kelly** who died suddenly last weekend. Una was a regular, much loved, supportive parishioner who attended daily Mass. May she rest in peace.