

NEWSLETTER

Parishes of St Anthony of Padua, Onchan; St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph, Douglas
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Trinity Sunday, 26th May 2024

(Page 83 in Mass book)

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



Dear Parishioners

We welcome **Archbishop Malcolm** this weekend. He will be presiding at Mass from his episcopal chair for the first time since the church of Saint Mary of the Isle was elevated to cathedral status by Pope Francis.

Last Sunday we celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Our awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit is reinforced this Sunday as we celebrate the feast of the Holy Trinity. Fittingly Archbishop Malcolm will be Confirming three adult parishioners on Saturday evening during the 5.00pm Mass. On Sunday morning he will bless a newly erected plaque commemorating the inauguration of our new cathedral last November. He will also dedicate a sculpture of **St Maughold** by local artist Shane Lucas. In due course, a matching sculpture, also by Shane Lucas, will be erected in our Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King.

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Religious historian Diana Butler Bass describes the intimate relationship between Jesus and the Spirit: *The Spirit empowers Jesus to be continually present in the world and, it must be admitted, the same Spirit has been fully at work since creation..... Indeed, God's Spirit conceives Jesus, initiates his public ministry, and sustains his spiritual life. The Spirit is the driving force, the animating creative life of the entire cosmos, responsible in particular for the vision of those in human history most attuned to the heartbeat of God. Even the apostle Peter recognized this as he preached to the Gentiles: "You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed for God was with him" (Acts 10:36–38).*

To separate Jesus from the Spirit is nearly impossible. Jesus would not exist without the Spirit; Jesus would not be a continuing presence if not for the Spirit. We cannot know Jesus without the Spirit.

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Father Richard Rohr OFM names the ability to love as the essential gift of the Holy Spirit: *At the end of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells his followers, "Stay in Jerusalem until you are covered by the power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The disciples remained as they were told until the Spirit descends upon the gathered community on the feast of Pentecost. Suddenly, there is a new vitality in the Church, a new source of power and love. Just as Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit, now the followers of Jesus are empowered by the same Spirit.*

By living in the Spirit, Jesus' disciples can do what God does. Or as Jesus puts it, "Be compassionate, just the way your Father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36). It is by the power of the Spirit that they follow Jesus' alternative way: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you; pray for those who treat you badly. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer your other cheek. If someone takes your coat, let them take your shirt as well. Treat others the way you want them to treat you (Luke 6:27–30).

This gift of knowing the Spirit, of being able to love as God does, is the same gift we need today. We see the world on the brink of destruction, yet we are too often apathetic about it. We see wars and famines, yet we choose to ignore them. We watch the earth degrade around us, and we simply adjust our thermostats. Too many of us just want to be left alone, not bothered by someone else - not even God - making demands on us. All of this is evidence of something missing in our lives and reveals that we do not really know the Holy Spirit.

To enter into relationship with the risen Christ, we have to let go of ourselves, surrender control of our lives, and let the Spirit be given to us. We think that we might lose our individuality, yet surrendering to God actually increases it. For once in our lives, we're truly free to become ourselves rather than what others want us to be. The highest form of self-possession is the capacity to give ourselves away. By giving ourselves completely to God, we come to be possessed by God and in full possession of ourselves at the same time.

Our Parish Council met on Wednesday 15th May and considered Archdiocesan requirements regarding Safeguarding, Data Protection and Health and Safety. These have a direct impact on parish activities such as Eucharistic Ministers, meetings and the Lourdes youth pilgrimage etc. Formal guidance and training will be introduced to ensure compliance in these areas.

It is amazing how quickly many of you have embraced the use of the tap and pay machine at the back of St Mary's. Unfortunately, in recent weeks it has proved to be unreliable. It was initially thought to be due to a fault in the machine itself. Many hours of testing and configuration this week by IT specialists have now traced the problem to interference from the recently installed CCTV system. Our computer network was also affected. We are hopeful the issue has now been rectified by our IT technician and by the CCTV company. Thank you for your patience. *Fr John*

- Peter Kelly will be giving a talk for the IOM Victorian Society in St Mary's Co-Cathedral this coming **Sunday 26 May at 3pm** on the history and contents of the Church with various alterations. Open to everyone. Refreshments served.
- **T and Chat** will next meet on **Tuesday 4 June 2024 from 10.30am to 12 noon** in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Josie Lorimer on 406063.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £1,149. St Anthony's £531. 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 25th May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Jean Grubb, recently died
Sunday 26th May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	John & Yvonne McCarrick, intentions People of our Parishes
Monday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury	12.10pm	St Mary's	Paddy & Peggy M ^c Cabe, intentions
Tuesday 28th May	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> <i>Eucharistic Service</i>
Wednesday 29th May St Paul VI, Pope	12.10pm	St Mary's	Nigel McFarlane, sick
Thursday 30th May	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	Fran Quayle, recently died Anna Keogh, recently died
Friday 31st May Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary	12.10pm	St Mary's	Barbara Heneghan, recently died
Saturday 1st June <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	11.00am to 12noon 5.00pm	St Mary's St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions Mary & Patrick Reaney, anniversary
Sunday 2nd June <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i>	9.30am 11.00am	St Anthony's St Mary's	People of our Parishes Betty Cairns, recently died (Preston, Lancashire)

We keep in our prayers this week the families of parishioners **Mary Moore** and **Marie Woodruff** who died recently. May they rest in peace.

As the General Election has been called in the UK, **CAFOD** and the **SVP** are working together so that the combined voices of Catholic parishioners can be heard by parliamentary candidates. Although this may not directly affect our IOM Deanery, many of our parishioners still have a UK vote or have family members who live in UK. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information. This is their prayer:

Mary, model of encounter, you heard God's call. Teach us to listen deeply in our polarised world.
Mary, woman of courage, you sang joyfully of God's justice.
Inspire us to challenge inequality and call for fulness of life for all.
Mary, seeker of sanctuary, you fled violence and persecution.
Be with us as we seek peace and respect for human dignity.
Mary, mother of community, you joined the disciples at Pentecost.
Pray that the Spirit will empower us as we act together for the common good. Amen