

NEWSLETTER

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

Tel 01624 675509 Email saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk Website www.manxcatholic.org

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, 30th June 2024

(Page 172 in Mass book)

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

Dear Parishioners

This week I travelled to the **Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool** bringing with me an exact replica of the **sculpture of Saint Maughold** already installed at the back of our Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle. **The Mayor of the City of Douglas, Councillor Natalie Byron-Teare** and her husband Andy joined us as we formally handed over the sculpture to the Cathedral Dean, Provost Anthony O'Brien. Sometime in the future the sculpture will be installed in a fitting location within the cathedral where it will provide a permanent reminder that the Island is a significant part of the Archdiocese. Councillor Natalie and her team were then given a tour of the Cathedral and the **Lutyens Crypt** by the Dean, the first part of the original design of the Cathedral. Work ceased with the outbreak of the Second World War. After the war it was decided that the Lutyens design was too ambitious to proceed. A competition led to the construction of the current futuristic building on top of the crypt at a fraction of the cost of the original design. The crypt, however, is much more than a mere subterranean basement. It is a striking and significant structure in its own right.

This weekend you will notice some **new display boards** at the back of St Mary's explaining the significance of our newly designated Cathedral. Hopefully they will be of interest to the increasing number of visitors.

I returned to Douglas on the same sailing as the Mayor. It was the first official departure of Manannan to the Island from the new **Liverpool Manx Sea Terminal**. It's a beautiful spacious facility; a vast improvement on the old one.

This week I received a letter from **Monsignor Peter Ryan** thanking us for the welcome he received last weekend on his visit to St Mary's. He thoroughly enjoyed his time with us and asked me to convey his thanks to those who made him so welcome. He was delighted to meet old friends although, as he pointed out, at the age of almost 95, there are a diminishing number of people who remember him. He is remarkably healthy and still enjoying his retirement.

This coming Friday is **Tynwald Day** and it is my privilege as Dean to participate in the ceremonies as the representative of the Roman Catholic Community on the Island. I always enjoy the traditional fair on the Back Fairfield that follows with refreshments at St John's Methodist Church Hall. The evening before I have also been invited to the **Beating of Retreat** ceremony at Government House followed by the annual Tynwald Dinner. These are days when I enjoy experiencing the Island at its best – I hope the weather is kind to us.

Some weeks ago I reported on discussions at the our **Parish Council** on Archdiocesan requirements concerning **Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health and Safety, Fire Regulations and Insurance liability**. These apply to all parish activities. The upheaval caused by Covid has perhaps allowed many practices to go unchecked.

Given the current emphasis on **the role of the laity and synodality** it is paradoxical that restrictions on initiatives by individual parishioners have to be applied. In days of old there were curates in most parishes. A curate or assistant priest has been defined as 'a mouse training to be a rat'. The curate was always approachable. The parish priest less so. I vowed that when I became a parish priest I would never say 'NO'. My recent role in Archdiocesan administration and oversight has made me more aware of my own responsibility as a parish priest. **As the agent for the Archdiocesan Trustees, every parish priest is personally responsible for failures regarding compliance. This is a requirement of both Charity Law and Canon Law. Going forward, all activities undertaken by individual parishioners in the name of the parish must be conducted with the full knowledge and consent of the parish priest and all records and communications must be channelled through the parish office rather than through parishioners' private email accounts and telephone numbers.**

We live in a changing world. It may seem alien and restrictive to parish helpers who have generously given a lifetime of service and could prove to be a disincentive to many. Parishioners currently involved in the world of work, however, in fields such as education, health, social care, finance, the voluntary sector or in any area with direct contact with the public, especially the young, the elderly and the vulnerable, take for granted that compliance with statutory regulations is required. (Have you tried to open a bank account recently?) They also appreciate that these regulations are required for their own protection.

At the request of the Archdiocesan authorities a comprehensive week-long **Health and Safety review** of all parish premises and the activities undertaken in them is due to be carried out throughout our Island Deanery. This has

already taken place in many other parts of the Archdiocese and highlighted shortcomings that need to be addressed. Once identified, failure to address them will render us liable to prosecution in the event of future incidents and render our insurance invalid. For example, last month there was a life-threatening incident in Saint Mary's church in which the police were involved and resulted in an individual spending time in intensive care at Nobles. Both Health and Safety and Safeguarding authorities had to be informed and the identity of a vulnerable person had to be protected. Questions have been asked and measures have had to be introduced to minimise similar crises in the future. Over coming months, we will be introducing guidelines and training for all our volunteers and parish 'helpers' and a day of **Safeguarding Training** is being arranged for all parish volunteers. Documentary evidence of attendance at such training is itself a further requirement

Fr John

Fr Brian's 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood: We look forward to marking this special occasion for Fr Brian on the evening of **Friday 12th July**. Mass will be concelebrated with Bishop Tom Neylon in St Mary's at 6.30pm followed by drinks and canapés. Hopefully good weather will allow use of St Mary's Garden. All St Anthony's and St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph's parishioners are invited.

The caterers have been in touch this week asking for final numbers so they can arrange staff and food to keep costs to a minimum. We will give final numbers to them on this coming Monday morning 1 July. **Therefore, it is essential to please let the parish office know if you would like to attend, preferably by email to saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk by today, Sunday 30th June.**

Fr Peter is leaving us this week to return home to Nigeria after 18 months sabbatical. In that time, he has been living in community with his fellow Spiritan Fr Joseph in Castletown and has been assisting us here in our parishes as well. At each of our Sunday Masses in St Anthony's and St Mary's we will be making a presentation to him to help support the work of his parish in Nigeria. We wish him every happiness in his future ministry. He goes with our prayers.

- **T and Chat Group** will meet on **2nd July** at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre from 10.30am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be served and everyone will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Josie for further information on 406063.
- **'PRAYING FOR THE NATION'** organised by Churches Alive in Mann, will take place at **7pm on Saturday 6 July at Tynwald Hill**. Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering.
- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes for St Anthony's Church** will be emptied this 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 £940, St Anthony's £555. 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 29th June			
<i>Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's	Moira Sutherland, recently died
Sunday 30th June	9.30am	St Anthony's	Maura MacMahon, anniversary
<i>Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul</i>	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Monday 1st July St Oliver Plunkett	12.10pm	St Mary's	Antonio Amosin Jr., recently died
Tuesday 2nd July	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Michael Casey, 60 th birthday anniv
Wednesday 3rd July St Thomas, Apostle	12.10pm	St Mary's	P.K. Mathew, 1 st anniversary
Thursday 4th July	10.00am	St Anthony's	Margot Slattery intention
St Elizabeth of Portugal	12.10pm	St Mary's	Alf & Betty Bowden
Friday 5th July (Tynwald Day)	No Mass or Service	St Mary's	No Mass or Service today
Saturday 6th July	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 7th July	9.30am	St Anthony's	Jimmy & Neal Mellon (senior), anniv
14 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Esther & George Murphy, anniversary