

NEWSLETTER

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

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14th Sunday of Ordinary Time, 7th July 2024

(Page 103 in Mass book)

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

Dear Parishioners

My new dog Scamp has been in residence for a week and he's beginning to settle down. He's a seven-year-old rescue dog. His previous owner had to give him up due to ill health. Manx SPCA have been most helpful and supportive. I would certainly recommend rehoming an unwanted dog from them rather than buying a puppy from an unknown dealer or puppy farm advertised on the internet. My previous dog Lottie was also a rescue dog. I had her for ten years.

Scamp's previous owner had him well trained. He was obviously well loved and he is very affectionate in return. He happily stays in his basket when I am eating without sniffing at the table looking for tit bits. He's a dream in the car. He's identified and taken over his favourite armchair. Like all dogs, he spends most of his time sleeping. And now he realises I am going to return when I go out, he's happy to snooze with one eye open. I'm once again getting used to keeping doors closed so he doesn't get out. I've lost two dogs in the past. Both got out on the road and were hit by cars. I was tempted to change Scamp's name, but he answers to his name and comes when I call him. Scamp, like Lottie, is my personal trainer. My daily step count has gone up. He gets me up in the morning for an early walk. He enjoys a decent walk during the day and I take him out last thing at night. When I'm sure he'll behave himself, I'll let him into church.

Some of you may remember **Adoremus**, the **Eucharistic Congress** held in Liverpool in 2018. Catholics from every diocese in England and Wales came to the city to renew their devotion to the Eucharist. A group of parishioners from the Island travelled across to take part. The climax of the event was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Liverpool finishing with Benediction on the steps of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

In preparation for the **Jubilee Year 2025**, a **National Eucharistic Congress is taking place at St Mary's College, Oscott**, Birmingham on Saturday 14 September 2024. Oscott is the seminary where many of the current generation of our students for the priesthood are trained. The Congress has been scheduled to coincide with the **53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador** from 8 - 15 September 2024. Unlike Adoremus in Liverpool in 2018, this is not a public event, although each diocese is expected to send pilgrims.

Archbishop Malcolm has announced a day of **Eucharistic Pilgrimage for the Archdiocese** on the following **Saturday, 21 September 2024**. It will take place in the **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King**. At the same time, a similar Island-wide pilgrimage will take place in our **Cathedral Church of Saint Mary of the Isle, Douglas**. There will be **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.00am until the regular Saturday 5.00pm Mass**. Our six churches on the Island: Our Lady Star of the Sea Ramsey, St Patrick's Peel, St Mary's Castletown, St Columba's Port Erin, St Anthony of Padua Onchan and Saint Mary of the Isle Douglas will each take responsibility for their own period of devotions. This will ensure there are people praying throughout the day. Watch this space for more information over coming weeks.

Fr John

Priests in Retirement

They've Been There for Us; Let's be There for Them

Our retired priests responded to the call to be priests, they devoted their lives and their all to serving God and God's people. Whilst they are required to offer their resignation at the age of 75, the Archbishop may ask them to continue if they are willing and able. When they retire, they are still priests for life. Many continue in ministry leading active lives – celebrating Mass, serving as chaplains, counselling people in need, supporting parish life and praying for us all.

Our priests live 'over the shop'. When they retire, they lose their home. The priests' retirement fund, known as the **George Andrew Fund**, ensures that our retired priests enjoy a dignified retirement. It supports independent living, providing them with a suitable home alongside other services. It makes sure that their social and healthcare needs are met. Our priests rely on this support after devoting their lives to the Church's mission and bringing people closer to Christ. Over the next ten years, approximately one third of our diocesan priests will reach retirement age. The cost of care will rise significantly as a result of this. With your help, we can continue to offer our gratitude and support to our retired priests. Please remember our sick and retired priests in your prayers.

The annual collection for the provision for Priests in Retirement will take place after the Masses next weekend.

Fr Brian's 25th Anniversary of Ordination: Thank you to all those who kindly let the parish office know that they will attend the celebration. Final numbers were given to the caterers last Monday morning. Bishop Tom is looking forward to a flying overnight visit to our parishes to attend this special occasion for Fr Brian.

Assisted Dying Bill

This update is from Rev Bill Leishman on behalf of Churches Alive in Mann:

'The House of Keys continues to debate the clauses and have so far brought in a number of amendments. The most significant of these is that euthanasia has been dropped from the Bill. Also, there are deep concerns about the way the conscience clause has been formulated. There are extra Tynwald sittings on 9th and 23rd July. It seems likely at the moment that the Third Reading – the key vote – will happen on Tuesday 9th July, when there will be a further demonstration outside Tynwald between 8.30 - 10am. I propose to write a final letter on behalf of CAIM to all our MHKs, urging them to vote against the Bill. Politically, the numbers frankly don't stack in our favour, so we are all the more clearly thrown upon prayer as we ask God to move the hearts and minds of our MHKs. Thank you for your faithfulness as we pray, speak and witness together.'

- **'PRAYING FOR THE NATION'** organised by Churches Alive in Mann, will take place at **7pm this Saturday 6 July at Tynwald Hill, St Johns**. Everyone is welcome to attend this gathering.
- **A Refresher Course** on the use of a **Defibrillator** and **Bleeding Control Kit** and **CPR** will take place in **St Anthony's Pastoral Centre** on **Wednesday 10th July at 1.30pm**. Repeated in **St Mary's Church** on **Thursday 25th July at 6.30pm**.
- **St Anthony's Bingo** will take place on **Thursday 11th July at 7.30pm**. All welcome including visitors.
- **Island Spirituality Network (ISN): Saturday 13th July**, from **10am – 1pm** at **St. John's Mill**. The speaker will be Revd Katy Canty, who has spent many years in prison chaplaincy. Her theme will be "Heartbreak, Hope and Holy Moments", when she will share experiences and insights. Suggested donation £10 but entirely voluntary.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Mary and St Joseph £850, St Anthony's £530. 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 6th July			
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
Monday 8th July	12.10pm	St Mary's	People of the Isle of Man
Tuesday 9th July	10.00am 12.10pm	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Armondas Burinskas, anniversary
Wednesday 10th July	12.10pm	St Mary's	Harry Horner, recently died
Thursday 11th July	10.00am	St Anthony's	Hayden Scott
St Benedict, Abbot	12.10pm	St Mary's	Alan Connors, 1 st anniversary
Friday 12th July	12.10pm	St Mary's	Special Intention
Saturday 13th July	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
Sunday 14th July	9.30am	St Anthony's	Joe Greene, anniversary
<i>Sea Sunday</i>			
15 th Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Walter Gilbey, 1 st anniversary

Sacrament of the Sick: Pope Francis invites us in July to pray for our brothers and sisters who receive the Anointing of the Sick. This Sacrament the Pope says is a "sign of visible compassion and hope" asking the Lord to grant his strength to every loved one who receives it. **This month, we pray for the pastoral care of the sick.**

'The Anointing of the Sick is not a sacrament only for those who are at the point of death. No. It is important that this is clear. When the priest draws near a person to perform the Anointing of the Sick, it is not necessarily to help them say goodbye to life. Thinking this way means giving up every hope and thinking that after the priest goes the undertaker will arrive.'

'We remember that the Anointing of the Sick is one of the "sacraments of healing", of "restoration," that heals the spirit. When a person is very ill, it's advisable to give them the Anointing of the Sick. When someone is elderly, it's good that they receive the Anointing of the Sick. We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will give the Lord's strength to those who receive it, and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.'

The **Columba Catholic Club**, 1 Sydney Mount, Douglas, on the corner of Bucks Road and Circular Road, exists to provide a club and facilities for members and their guests. The facilities comprise a large function room, a lounge and a snug together with a full bar and kitchen. The Club is currently open on Friday evenings between 8 -11pm. The Club is the home of the Knights of St Columba on the Isle of Man all of whom are members. Membership is also available to all Island residents - Catholic or otherwise - and new members are most welcome. Membership application forms can be found at the back of church. Please complete and return to Brian Murphy or Richard Coase, who will usually be at the Saturday evening Mass and Brian at the Sunday morning Mass at St Mary's. The Club is also available to hire for functions, for meetings, social events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals, club and society events etc. For information on hire, please contact Brian or Richard.

It was good to see many of you at the Tynwald Day Ceremony and Celebrations on Friday. I had the privilege of meeting the Italian Ambassador to the UK with guests who attended the Beating Retreat event on Thursday in Government House and again on Tynwald Day at St Johns. The group had intended to visit St Mary's Cathedral at lunchtime on Thursday but their itinerary did not allow time. The poem below was written by Michael Manning, the Eighth Manx Bard, for Tynwald Day last year.....

Tynwald Day

Welcome, welcome to this hill,
welcome, welcome all that will,
eat and drink and have your fill.

We've welcomed Vikings, Celts and lords,
the fishers' nets, the warriors' swords,
the loaghtans of the crofters' field
and those who ploughed the seas for yield.

The winds still touch the old stone cross,
the hidden glens grow tree and moss.
Rest awhile; and mend your loss.
We've welcomed tourists in their droves,
sly smugglers to our creeks and coves,
the money-men escaping dues,
the gamblers game to win or lose.

The winds still kiss the ancient shore,
proclaiming freedom's better law.
A humble beauty needs no more.

But welcome more the voices here,
from parish earth the soil so dear,
voice of children, husbands, wives,
the dreams of all the common lives.
Heed their cushag-stubborn song,
that peace and justice might belong.

The winds still chant above the keeills,
the seabirds soar and dance their reels.
It is the simple truth that heals.

So welcome, welcome to this hill,
welcome, welcome all that will,
eat and drink and have your fill.

*Michael Manning - Eighth Manx Bard
5th July 2023*