

# NEWSLETTER

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

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## Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

(Year A for Sundays) (Cycle II for weekdays)

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parishioners

Over recent Sundays we have heard Jesus introducing a series of parables with the words ‘*The Kingdom of Heaven is like....*’ This Sunday we celebrate the **Feast of Christ the King**. Fr Richard Rohr suggests what Christ’s kingdom might mean for us today:

*‘Jesus announced, lived, and inaugurated for history a new social order. He called it **the Reign or Kingdom of God** and it became the guiding image of his entire ministry. The Reign of God is the subject of Jesus’ inaugural address (see Mark 1:15, Matthew 4:17, and Luke 4:14–30), his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) and the majority of his parables. Once this guiding vision of God’s will became clear to Jesus, which seems to have happened when he was about thirty and alone in the desert, everything else came into perspective. In fact, Matthew’s Gospel says, “From then onwards” (4:17), Jesus began to preach.*

*‘In order to explain this concept, it may be helpful to first say what it is not: **the “Kingdom” is not synonymous with heaven**. Many Christians have mistakenly thought that the Reign of God is “eternal life,” or where we go after we die. That idea is disproven by Jesus’ own prayer: “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). “Thy Kingdom come” means very clearly that God’s realm is something that enters into this world or, as Jesus puts it, “is close at hand” (Matthew 10:7). We shouldn’t project it into another world. What we discover in the New Testament, especially in Matthew’s Gospel, is that **the Kingdom of God is a new world order, a new age, a promised hope begun in the teaching and ministry of Jesus—and continued in us.***

*‘I think of the Kingdom of God as the **Really Real** (with two capital Rs). That experience of the Really Real—the “Kingdom” experience—is the heart of Jesus’ teaching. It’s Reality with a capital R, the very bottom line, the pattern-that-connects. It’s the goal of all true religion, the experience of the Absolute, the Eternal, what is.*

*‘God gives us just enough tastes of his realm to believe in it and to want it more than anything. In the parables, **Jesus never says the Kingdom is totally now or totally later. It’s always now-and-not-yet.** When we live inside the Really Real, we live in a “threshold space” ... We learn how to live between heaven and earth, one foot in both worlds, holding them precious together.*

*‘We only have the first fruits of the Kingdom in this world, but we experience enough to know that it’s the only thing that will ever satisfy us. Once we have had the truth, half-truths do not satisfy us anymore. In its light, everything else is relative, even our own life.’ (Richard Rohr, Nov 2020)*

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I read this week about the polarisation around the US election. ‘Culture wars’ are a feature of political life in the UK and Europe as well. We are divided over issues such as Brexit and approaches to the coronavirus. But divisions exist at every level. In the church, in parishes, at work and in families. It raises a fundamental question: **how do I handle conflict?** Do I always have to react in anger? Do I automatically think in terms of winners and losers? The article suggested a different approach in situations of conflict:

*‘The next time you find yourself about to explode with frustration at a colleague, you may want to try this instead: **GET CURIOUS BEFORE YOU GET FURIOUS.....** Getting curious before you get furious means reflecting before you react. It means managing your emotions before they manage you. It means being careful about making assumptions without first gathering the facts. It means not automatically validating a third party’s report about another’s actions or intentions.*

*\* **Take time to calm down and reflect.** Walk away from the situation if you can...Take a few deep breaths to release tension. Find some way to step back from the situation and reflect before you act.*

*\* **Challenge your assumptions.** Challenge your initial impulses. Does this person really have something against you? How do you know? Or, are you filling in the gaps with what you think might be true? ...So, why not assume you don’t know the whole story? Decide to withhold judgment until you do.*

*\* **Avoid triangular relationships.** Triangles occur when person A tells person B something negative they heard or observed about person C. For example: “You should have heard what Sally said about you in the meeting.” Triangular relationships are not healthy because they are based on indirect communication and, often, misleading information.*

*\* **Have an in-person meeting.** The only way to know for sure what motivates someone is to ask them. Ask to meet with the other party. Have a respectful discussion in a neutral space when you both have time to share and reflect.. ...**For godness’ sake, don’t try to text it out.** Too much non-verbal data is lost, which will only exacerbate the potential for further misunderstandings. ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com))*

Fr John

- We are holding a special **Open Day at St Mary's School this afternoon, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, starting at 2.00pm.** This is for *ALL* interested parishioners, not just parents and grandparents. Come along and see for yourself what a transformation has taken place in *our* school. After brief words of introduction from headteacher Mrs Donna Martin and from Fr John, tea (and cake!!!) will be served and you will be free to see around this beautiful building. All are welcome.
- Last week saw publication of a report from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (**IICSA**) on **Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church**. It makes sad reading. The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a statement formally accepted its findings. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has also released a personal statement. Both documents are being distributed with this week's newsletter by email. Hard copies are also available at the back of church.
- **Synod 2020:** Isle of Man Synod members are holding three meetings to review and discuss the Synod summary proposals and affirmations which can be found on the Synod website [www.synod2020.co.uk](http://www.synod2020.co.uk). Over 3,500 responses on the four themes were received by the Synod working party which have been condensed to 120 proposals. These include reflections made in the light of the Covid-19 crisis which has generated a renewed interest. All parishioners are invited to come along to any of these local meetings:
  - St Columba's Port Erin on **Thursday 26 November at 7pm**
  - St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan on **Saturday 28 November at 10am**
  - St Anthony's Pastoral Centre, Onchan on **Wednesday 2 December at 7pm**
- **Pilgrimage Isle of Man** is hosting an illustrated talk by Yvonne Cresswell on Archibald Knox's illuminated manuscript 'The Deer's Cry' in Trinity Methodist Church, Douglas on Monday 30 November at 7.30pm. Yvonne is Curator of Social History at Manx National Heritage.
- The next **Memory Support Group** meeting will take place at St Anthony's Pastoral Centre on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December between 10.30am-12 noon**. Mike Corkhill will provide musical entertainment and tea/coffee will be served. All will be warmly welcomed. Please contact Josie on 406063 or Amanda on 642879 for details.
- Onchan Commissioners are holding a **Night of Light** event on **Wednesday 2 December beginning at 6.15pm** in Port Jack Glen. A **Lantern Parade** and **Christmas Carol Trail** involving each of the Onchan churches, including St Anthony's, whose children will perform a carol with a living tableau. Why not go along to support them? The Carol Trail will be followed by a Firework Display in Onchan Park at 7.30pm.
- **Christmas Live** are performing a live Nativity in Villiers Square, Douglas on Thursday 17 December at 6pm and 7.30pm. The final choir practice will be held from 6-7pm in Bohemian Coffee House on December 10<sup>th</sup>. No singing experience necessary and no need to read music. Everyone welcome.
- **St Columba's Port Erin** is holding a **Nativity Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm**, with Rushen Silver Band providing the music for the carols. Everyone is welcome to attend. Young people are invited to take part as readers or acting out the tableau. For further details please contact Graeme Easton at [gme@manx.net](mailto:gme@manx.net) or on 435056 by Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.
- **Envelopes for the November Holy Souls list** are still available at the back of our churches. They can be placed in the box in front of the altar.

#### Masses and Services for the coming week

<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's Livestream	People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b> <i>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Holy Souls
<i>Youth Sunday</i>	11.00am	St Mary's Livestream	Frank O'Neill, 3 <sup>rd</sup> anniversary
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b> St Columbanus	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	W. Kelly, special intention
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	10.00am	St Anthony's	Holy Souls
	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	George Bridson, anniversary
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Peter Simpson, 4 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>St Anthony's</b>	<b>Funeral Service: Anthony Hopkins</b>
	12.10 noon	St Mary's Livestream	Maurice Hayes, sick
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b>	11.00am to 12.00 noon	St Mary's	Confessions and Exposition
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	5.00pm	St Mary's Livestream	Sadie Lawless, anniversary
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Brenda Park, anniversary
	11.00am	St Mary's Livestream	People of our Parishes

We remember **Joseph Quinn** who died this week. We pray for his grieving family and friends.