

NEWSLETTER

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

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Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, 11th June 2023

(Page 83 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

This week we celebrate **the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, *Corpus Christi***. The recent Coronation service included celebration of the Eucharist. Only the King and Queen received. That seems peculiar for Catholics today.

The Coronation ceremony is an ancient one, established when reception of Holy Communion was rare. At that time, this would have been considered a special privilege for the monarch and his consort, befitting their divine-given status. And so it remains today.

It was in the 13th century that the obligation to receive Holy Communion once a year was introduced. This suggests that the practice had almost disappeared, even among devout Mass goers. 'Easter Duties' required reception of Holy Communion on a single occasion within the Easter period. It also required Confession if serious sin prevented you from approaching the altar. Many of those martyred for attending Mass at the time of the Reformation may not have received Holy Communion when they went to Mass.

More frequent Communion was encouraged towards the end of the 19th century. Pius X introduced Holy Communion for children at the age of seven. Fasting from midnight was required. In the seminary we received at early Sunday morning Mass some hours before the Solemn High Mass. The priest celebrating, who was the only person to receive, had a lie-in, compensation for missing his breakfast.

The elevation of the host at the Consecration was the climax of the Mass and perhaps our primary encounter with the Eucharist. The bell rang to warn us that the sacred moment was approaching. Silence fell. A second bell indicated the end of the Consecration and was the signal for a spate of coughing. Visits to the Blessed Sacrament were encouraged. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was a popular devotion and the annual *Quarant Ore*, Forty Hours of continuous Exposition, was a key event in every parish. Our current Archdiocesan Directory began life as 'the Quarant Ore Guide'. It listed dates for every church in the Archdiocese. As a child, family visits to neighbouring churches on their special date were a regular Sunday afternoon outing.

It could be asked whether current practice diminishes our devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Perhaps the feast of *Corpus Christi* allows us an opportunity to revive it. *Fr John*

Lourdes Youth Quiz Night will take place on **FRIDAY 16 JUNE** at **7.30pm** in the **Columba Club**. Please note this is a change of evening from the usual Saturday. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets £7 each available from Brian Murphy on 627729 or 350070. Raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated. Proceeds of the evening go towards travel and accommodation for our IOM young people who help with sick pilgrims in Lourdes.

Fr John's 50th Anniversary of Ordination and 75th birthday:

Thanks to all those who have let the parish office know they will attend Fr John's afternoon celebration next **Sunday 18th June from 3pm to 4.30pm at St Mary's Church**. Hopefully the good weather will last to allow use of St Mary's Garden. The caterers wish to minimise waste and costs and have asked for final numbers so they can organise staff to serve Finger Food Canapés. Drinks will also be provided. All St Anthony's and St Mary of the Isle & St Joseph's parishioners are invited. **Please let the parish office know, by latest this Monday 12 June, if you would like to attend, preferably by email to saintmaryiom@rcaol.org.uk**. Thank you as well to all those who have returned Collection envelopes with contributions towards a gift for Fr John. Envelopes are still available at the back of church.

Masses and Services for the coming week
All Masses and Services from St Mary's are live-streamed

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| Saturday 10th June <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i> | 5.00pm | St Mary's | Kathleen 'Kit' Kneen, anniversary |
| Sunday 11th June <i>Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ</i> | 9.30am | St Anthony's | People of our Parishes |
| | 11.00am | St Mary's | Sheila Daly, recently died |
| Monday 12th June | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Jane Harrison, recently died |
| Tuesday 13th June St Anthony of Padua | 10.00am | St Mary's | Funeral Service: Dominic Delaney <i>Eucharistic Service</i> John Tobin, recently died |
| | 10.00am | St Anthony's | |
| | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | |
| Wednesday 14th June | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Members of the Wheeler Family |
| Thursday 15th June | 10.00am | St Anthony's | Jim McDonald, recently died |
| | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Susan Manning, recently died |
| Friday 16th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus | 12.10 noon | St Mary's | Deceased members of the Devine family |
| Saturday 17th June The Immaculate Heart of Mary 11 th Sunday of Ordinary Time | | | <i>No Confessions or Exposition</i> |
| | 5.00pm | St Mary's | John Smith, anniversary |
| Sunday 18th June 11 th Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Day for Life</i> | 9.30am | St Anthony's | People of our Parishes |
| | 11.00am | St Mary's | Fr John, 50 th Anniversary of Ordination |

- **Canon Brendan** has been moved to Ramsey Cottage Hospital for further assessment prior to his returning home. He is still recovering from the excitement of being transferred by helicopter from Nobles, a six-minute journey. Canon Brendan wishes to sincerely thank Dr John Thomas and the hospital staff of Ward 7 who cared for him so well these past weeks. He is grateful to you all for your continuing prayers.
- **Island Spiritually Network:** Next meeting will be held on **Saturday 17 June from 10am to 1pm in St John's Mill.** Guest Speaker is the eminent biblical scholar, teacher and author **Fr Nicholas King SJ**, whose theme will be 'Going deeper into the Mystery' - the gospel of St John. Fr Nick is currently one of the Jesuit staff at Farm Street Church in London. Suggested donation £10 but no obligation to give.

Assisted Dying Bill: Churches Alive in Mann have asked for prayers regarding the Assisted Dying Bill to be said during each of the four Sundays in June. These will be written by a different church leader each week and will give our Isle of Man Christian churches a significant point of unity in prayer. Here is the prayer for use in our churches on Sunday 11th June, with thanks to Dylan Nieuwoudt, Captain of The Salvation Army:

Father God, we give you thanks and praise, for we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. We marvel at the wonderful works of your hands. Deep down in our hearts we know that we are all precious to you. We acknowledge that every human life has value, and that no human life is worthless or pointless. Everyone is loved, and everyone is important to You. All human life is sacred.

During this season of public debate and government consultation, we ask for wisdom relating to the matter of assisted dying. We pray that the policy makers will protect the value and dignity of each human life, no matter how vulnerable or weak. As Christians, may we be passionate about life, and fervently stand against any policy that diminishes its value.

We pray that the Church will serve as a light to people. Help us to care for one another in a practical and supportive way; so that the sick, the elderly and the dying will know that they are worthy of respect - that they are loved, and that they will not be abandoned in their suffering. In Jesus Name, Amen.

- *'In the Eucharist, everyone can experience the loving and concrete attention of the Lord. Those who receive the **Body and Blood of Christ** with faith not only 'eat' but are 'satisfied'. To eat and to be satisfied: these are two basic necessities that are satisfied in the Eucharist.'* (Pope Francis)