

## NEWSLETTER

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

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**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

(Page 146 in Mass Book)

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

Dear Parishioners

We look forward to the **visit of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía**. He will formally read the decree from the Holy See announcing the **Inauguration of Saint Mary of the Isle as a Co-Cathedral** and install Archbishop Malcolm in his chair on the sanctuary. Thanks to all who let us know they are coming. We now have a full house. This historic moment in the life of our parishes takes place while two other significant events unfold: the horrendous atrocities and bloodshed in the Holy Land and the second reading of the Assisted Dying Bill in the House of Keys.

I write on the day Pope Francis has declared a **Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace in the Holy Land**. 'The number of victims is growing and the situation in Gaza is desperate', he said. Pope Francis appealed that 'everything possible must be done to avoid a humanitarian catastrophe..... Lay down weapons and heed the cries for peace from the poor, the people and the innocent children. **War solves no problems. It only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge.** The Holy Father went on to urge all believers to take one side only: that of peace. 'But not with words' he said, 'but with prayer and with total dedication'.

Church Leaders on the Isle of Man are united in their opposition to the **Assisted Dying Bill**. Revd Bill Leishman, Minister at Broadway Baptist Church has been taking the lead on our behalf. He has suggested some ways in which we can stand against the passing of the Bill:

### 1 WRITE TO ALL MHKS

The Chief Minister, Alf Cannan, in response to a letter from a constituent, said: *"You should share your thoughts with all members via email - so many others have on both sides of the argument."*

If you have already written to your own MHKs, you could simply copy and paste details, changing the name, and send to other MHKs. If you haven't yet written, please do whatever you feel able to do.

Individual email addresses for each MHK take the same form: the full name with a dot after their forename followed by @im.gov eg [Alfred.Cannan@gov.im](mailto:Alfred.Cannan@gov.im)

For pointers on what to say, download the Churches Alive in Mann briefing at <https://docs-eu.livesiteadmin.com/73930edb-a9ba-4084-afa4-a35d7c24f238/standing-in-the-gap---briefing--canva-.pdf>. Hard copies of this have been available at the back of church in recent weeks.

### 2 IF YOUR MHK HAS SAID THEY ARE IN FAVOUR, REPLY TO ASK THEM TO SEND THE BILL TO A SELECT COMMITTEE

Given that the Bill is significantly different from the last Isle of Man Bill on this subject – especially with the addition of euthanasia – it would be reasonable for even the most pro of MHKs to ensure a very thorough scrutiny in a Select Committee.

Some MHKs are considering sending it to a "Bill Committee". However, this is only a group of 5 MHKs without all the external evidence and scrutiny of a Select Committee. Please encourage all MHKs who are in favour of the Bill to ensure it gets the depth of scrutiny that such a huge change deserves.

### 3 JOIN US TO PRAY AND FAST ON TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER

This Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, from 8am until the end of the Tynwald debate, please join us for prayer in the Well at Broadway Baptist Church. (Walk up the steps at the door just downhill from the main church entrance). Come when you can and leave when you must. This battle will not be won except by prayer. If you can't join us in person, please pray wherever you are. We would also like to encourage all who are able, to fast for all or part of the day on Tuesday as we seek God.

You might also be interested in a Manx Radio piece, featuring four different voices – including from: Humanists Against Assisted Dying & Euthanasia; Hospice; and Autism in Mann. <https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/assisted-dying-could-the-islands-first-assisted-death-take-place-by-2025/>. Watch out for further interviews in the coming days with Isle of Man Newspapers, ITV Granada and ITN News. Lots of helpful information can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/AssistedDyingConcernIOM>

Almighty and Eternal God, we thank you that you have created us in your image and likeness. You are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all that can ever be.

Teach us to venerate and wonder at the mystery of life, and to understand that every moment of it, in sickness and in health, remains in your care, enfolded in your love, and blessed by your grace.

From the warmth of the womb until the stillness of the grave when, in your own good time, you call us to yourself, let us know that we are in your loving hands, our Creator and our Redeemer. This we ask, Heavenly Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. *(composed by Bishop Peter Eagles)*

- The **Red Mill Hill Missionary Boxes** for **St Anthony's Church, Onchan**, will be emptied over the next 2 weeks. If you have a box, please leave it in the church porch in the usual place.
- The **Memory Support Group** will meet on **Tuesday 7 November** at 10.30am to 12noon in St Anthony's Pastoral Centre. Everyone will be warmly welcomed and refreshments will be served. Contact Josie on 406063 or Sally on 642879.
- **Offertory Collections:** St Anthony's £508; St Mary & St Joseph £865. This does not include standing orders and credit card donations. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

### Masses and Services for the coming week

*All Masses and Services from St Mary's are live-streamed*

<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>			
30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	People of our Parishes
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Evelyn Denver, 7 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
30 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	Sarah Williamson, 1 <sup>st</sup> anniversary
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	<i>No Mass or Service today</i>
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b>	10.00am 12.10 noon	St Anthony's St Mary's	<i>Eucharistic Service</i> Alison Newson, recovery
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>	12.10 noon	<b>St Mary's</b>	Canon Brendan Alger, recently died
<b><i>Solemnity of All Saints (Holyday)</i></b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	<b>St Anthony's</b>	Michael & Sarah Garrity, anniversary
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>			
<b><i>Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)</i></b>	12.10 noon	St Mary's	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>St Mary's</b>	<b><i>Inauguration of the Cathedral Church of St Mary of the Isle</i></b>
St Winefride; St Martin de Porres			
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	11.00am to 12noon	St Mary's	Exposition and Confessions
31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	5.00pm	St Mary's	Felixberto Rosales, recently died
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	9.30am	St Anthony's	Deceased members of the Wheeler, McNally & Kelly families
31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	11.00am	St Mary's	People of our Parishes

### Prayer for Peace in Our Time

O God, author and giver of peace, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth and destined for eternal glory, Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God, that peace which, as your Son Jesus Christ told us and as we have experienced in these days, is a peace which the world cannot give. To world leaders grant the wisdom to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion and nation to that common humanity that makes us all your children and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge or even in the cause of justice, grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror, especially the frightened children, be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope. And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Mary, Mother of all and Queen of peace, pray for us.

*(Fr Peter J. Scagnelli)*