

DUKA Fun Day News



THE DOMINICA UK ASSOCIATION
Serving Communities in Dominica, the UK and elsewhere



The Dominica UK Association (DUKA) held its annual Community Family Fun Day including commemoration of the Feast of Saint Isidore in style over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.



Dominica National Dress, traditional and modern, paraded at the Fun Day, courtesy of Sacafete London



The fun day saw hundreds attend the afternoon event and included merchandise stalls, board games, Play it on Pan, face painting, keep fit challenge, costumes showcase, various performances, Caribbean food and other cool activities.

Held on Monday 26 May, the DUKA Community Family Fun Day and St Isidore Celebration ran until evening at Ilford Sports Club, Seven Kings, Ilford. It was a fantastic event, enjoyed by guests of all ages with dance tracks provided by DJs Panther, Stevie B, Redboy, Ninjaman Club Zouk Lloyd, Vern Island Selector, and Tropique.



Reggie Johnson (DUKA Vice-Chair), DJ Vern and Chairman Vincent M John

Saint Isidore the Labourer, also known as Isidore the Farmer, was born around 1070 in Madrid, Spain. He came from a poor but devout Catholic family. Isidore spent most of his life working on the land owned by Juan de Vargas.

Isidore was known for his strong faith. He would attend Mass every morning before heading to the fields. Many stories about him include when angels were seen ploughing the fields for him while he prayed, proving how deeply spiritual he was.

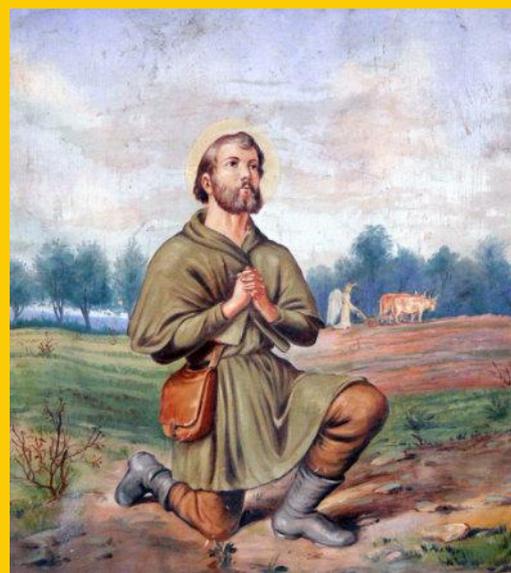
Isidore married María Torribia, who is also honoured as a saint — Santa María de la Cabeza. They had one son. According to tradition, their son once fell into a well but was miraculously saved. After this, the couple chose to become deeply religious. They remained married but lived separately, dedicating themselves fully to God.

Throughout his life, Isidore was said to have performed many miracles, including:

- Angels ploughing the fields while he prayed
- Causing water to spring from dry land
- Feeding the birds and Isidore's basket doubled in volume
- The Bottomless Stew Pot which fed many unexpected visitors
- Bringing a child back to life

Isidore died on 15 May 1130. He was later canonised as a saint by Pope Gregory XV in 1622.

Saint Isidore is the patron saint of farmers, rural communities, and labourers today.



Saint Isidore

In Dominica, the Feast of Saint Isidore is celebrated every Whit Monday. This day is especially important in farming villages such as San Sauveur, La Plaine and Grand Bay.



Magician Cara of Kazam Children's Entertainment wowed the kids



Jane Grell, poet and folk singer, entertains a captive audience



Dominica's colours were everywhere



Coach Patricia gives youngsters a keep fit challenge



Bukky, The Voice UK semi-finalist, sang brilliantly



Drummer Bro Omowale entertains

While it isn't a national holiday, the feast holds great meaning for Catholic communities and people connected to agriculture. Celebrations include Masses, prayers, processions, music, dance, food, and blessings of seeds, tools, and crops.



Everyone enjoyed themselves



Vincent M John is Chairman of DUKA. He said: "Saint Isidore shows us that even simple, everyday work can be holy. Through his life, he teaches us that we can serve God not just in churches, but in the fields, homes, and workplaces too. He remains a powerful example of faith, humility, and the sacredness of labour. This legacy is even more relevant and poignant in our current turbulent world."

Fun Day revellers enjoy the occasion



Contact:

The Dominica UK Association
and DUKA Mas Domnik UK
Carnival Band

E: management@duka.org.uk

www.duka.org.uk

Tel.: +44 7712 894518



TROPICAL
Creole Media

tropicalcreolemedia.com

Created by : Ron Shillingford +44 7931 686672 ron@tropicalcreolemedia.com

Designed by : SeizerStyle Designs. 1767 615 8442 designs@seizerstyle.com