

Oie Noo Markys

A Manx tradition for 24th / 25th April

A collection of historical resources from A. W. Moore's *Folk Lore of the Isle of Man*



Culture
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April 25 is now best known as *Laa'l Noo Markys-yn-surhtallagh*, "St. Mark the Evangelist's Feast-day"; but it was formerly connected with the famous Manx saint, Maughold, to whom a parish church is dedicated. He had two days in the year, this, the first and more important, being called *Laa'l Maghal toshee* – Maughold's chief Feast-day. The superstitions formerly practised on the eve of this day were the same as those belonging to the eve of St. Mark in England. If a person on the eve of this day were to watch in the churchyard from eleven in the evening till one in the morning he would see the wraiths of those who are to be buried there during the year.

[...]

A curious belief that the souls of all people left their bodies when asleep on this night, and wandered to the place where they would die was formerly prevalent, and from this probably arose the custom of sitting up to watch, and so avoiding such an occurrence. Those who watched in the church porches were rewarded with the sight of those who would die in the year, as on St. Mark's eve and Hollantide eve.

