



THE GOLDEN DOOR

Sadly, 2016 and it seems 2017 have seen more than their share of “celebrity” deaths. Actors Gene Wilder, Alan Rickman, John Hurt, Mary Tyler Moore, Debbie Reynolds and her daughter Carrie Fisher; musicians George Michael, Leonard Cohen, Peter Sarstedt; personalities such as politicians Fidel Castro and Shimon Peres, astronaut John Glenn, boxer Muhammed Ali, comedians/actors Caroline Aherne and Gordon Kaye. The list goes on. Some of the above you recognise, others... perhaps not. As in life, we “connect” with some and not with others. Peter Sarstedt for instance had the song “Where Do You Go My Lovely”. Without being irreverent, it’s more than a passing thought for people standing at a gaping graveside. Where do we go to: ...?

The ultimate door

Death is probably the ultimate door that we must all pass through and as I write this, I’m thinking of people, not least migrants and refugees, for whom the very human doorways of this world seem to be becoming more inaccessible. Today, just a short space before Easter, we meet with the friend of Jesus – Lazarus of Bethany. He made the journey to the distant country of death and was called back by the Master’s voice.

I think he would surely nod in agreement with the poet who shares part of his name (Emma Lazarus) whose words adorn the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour and which seem a little ironic nowadays as I write this (in mid January):

“Give me your tired, your poor,

(continued on back page)

your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free... The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

But I think today is more about faith. It's a faith in our Lord that changed Martha from a woman whining in the kitchen about her sister Mary to becoming a believer in the resurrection of the Lord. She went

Reflection

Jesus said to Martha, I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?

Lesson

With Martha renew your believing in Jesus as the unique One from God.

Prayer

Lord, our God, You have given us the gift of life as a sharing in your own life.

out to meet the Lord. Lazarus had an advocate, someone to speak up for him.

Transformation

She is a transformed woman (no Operation Transformation here!). The Spirit of God helps her to realise her full potential as a child of God. This is God's dream and plan for each one of us: a full life – not a half life. To be joyful in our work, at peace in ourselves, confident not arrogant in our gifts, knowing we are loved and fully known. And ready like Martha to go out, to meet Jesus directly and bring his attention to that which needs fixing, healing, mending, raising – in ourselves, in our parishes, in our communities, in our Church and in our world.

– Tom Cox



Pope's Prayer Intentions for April

Young People

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

Today's Readings



Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm 129:1-8
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

This Week (3-9 April)

- 3 Mon** St Richard
- 4 Tue** St Isidore of Seville, bishop
- 5 Wed** St Vincent Ferrer
- 6 Thur** St Paul Tinh, martyr
- 7 Fri** St John Baptist de la Salle
- 8 Sat** St Dionysius
- 9 Sun** PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

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MASS TIMES & SERVICES (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9.30am, 1pm & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am. Friday at 7.00pm.

Wednesday: Communion Service discontinued until further notice (Day off)

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Mass at 7.00pm & Morning of Feast Day 09.30am

Confessions: Before each Mass and By Arrangement. Baptisms: Saturdays at 4pm (3 weeks notice required)



5th SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 11:1-45

1. Martha and Mary were people of faith but Jesus led them to an even deeper faith. Who were the people who led you to a deeper faith in Jesus? Remember them and give thanks.

2. Martha and Mary were struggling to come to terms with their bereavement. What has helped you in similar situations?

3. The concern of Jesus is palpable and touching. Recall those who matter to you and to whom you matter. Such love mediates God's love, which surpasses human love with the gift of new life and Easter joy.

4. One can imagine Lazarus as a symbol of people and groups that are written off as dead (sometimes by themselves), and yet through faith come back to life again. Have you had the experience of being revived by faith? Has faith helped to free you from what held you in bondage, or was destructive of your life?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Cliff Black, Molly Gubbins, John McCann

Anniversaries: Bridget Curran, Fred McGreevy, Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher, Máire Smyth (Tues 4th April at 9:30am), Olive McCormick (Thurs 20th April at 9:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 2nd April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Hannah Graham

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
Morning Mass: Seamus Monaghan

Sun 8th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Shauna Mullen & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collection: Weekly £710.91, Needy Parishes £6.80, Shrines £168.61. **NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE** (arranged by surname, alphabetically). Please note to reduce waste numbers have been re-attributed. If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. Please consider signing a Gift Aid form so that the parish can claim back the Tax from the HMRC on your contributions. Your own Tax is not affected.

Trocaire Lenten Collection Boxes are available in the porch.

Lent Programme 2017 for the South & East Belfast Pastoral Area. Please find in the porch a group parish timetable of Lenten Programmes available for the parishes in the Pastoral Area.

World Meeting of Families Second Collection: Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. **The first national collection last year came to almost €800,000.** In this regard a second national collection will be held next weekend (8 and 9 April). Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated. Leaflets about the Meeting are available in porch.

Blessing of the Pipe Organ and Concert with the Palestrina Boys Choir. Friday, 7th April at 7:30pm in Our Lady of the Assumption

Church, Newcastle. Come and join us as we prepare to enter Holy Week with an exquisite repertoire of music sung for us by the highly acclaimed Palestrina Boys Choir of the Pro-Cathedral Dublin led by their conductor, Blánaid Murphy. This concert is in support of the Pipe Organ Fund. No cover charge or tickets necessary, a retiring collection will be taken up. Please note the date for your diary.

Cantiunculae Concerts—Dates for your diary. Fr McCann's choir will be staging the following concerts:

Cantiunculae, Music through the generations: /Friday 21st March, in 1st Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast, presenting religious and secular, popular music, by Cantiunculae choir and their family members. 7pm. Proceeds in aid of Glebe House.

Cantiunculae Faure's Requiem with the McDonnell Trio, Friday 19th May [NB CHANGE OF DATE!] in St Anthony's Church, Willowfield, at 7pm. Proceeds in aid of Renovation of the Willowfield COI Parish Hall. More details posted later in subsequent bulletins.

The Hospice Walks: The Hospice Walk is one of the biggest fundraising events which take place across Northern Ireland and we would encourage as many people as possible to take part to help raise vital funds in support of Hospice care services for children and adults living with life-limiting conditions. Please see poster in porch.

Elmwood Chamber Orchestra. Fr Gerard Magee (Chaplain, QUB), will conduct the Elmwood Chamber Orchestra in a programme of music by Grieg, JS Bach, Elgar and Beethoven next Sunday, 2nd April, in the Great Hall at Queen's University. The concert will begin at 3pm. Entrance: Adult: £10; Student/OAP: £5. Enquiries tel: 028 9066 9737.

Basic Biblical beginner's Hebrew: Shalom, shalom to all those who have wanted to understand and read the bible in the Lord's own language; to hear His words and to understand the context of meaning that His Word expresses. This course is our first opportunity to learn Hebrew in a natural way. Over the course of the weekend 21-23 April 2017 you will develop an understanding of the Hebrew language, through the Lord's Prayer. This course will be hosted in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne. Cost £145. Please contact Katy Moreland: wordofthelord@gmail.com or check the Drumalis website for further details and to listen to the introductory video. Thank you.

He Has Spoken Through the Prophets... Viatores Christi invites you to a talk series on renewal and the future of the Church during April, May and June. This will consist of a series of seminars with the following speakers:

- Bishop Willie Walsh April 4th 2017
- Fr Mark Patrick Hederman May 3rd 2017
- Patricia Coyle June 7th 2017

Time: 7.00pm to 9.30pm. Lecture Hall, Belvedere College, Dublin 1. Suggested donation €10. To book your place call 01-8689986 or email shane@viatoreschristi.com

Penitential Services in Preparation for Easter:

Sun 9 April (Palm Sunday) St Colmeille's, Ballyhackamore @ 3pm;
St Brigid's, Derryvolgie @ 4pm

Mon 10 April Holy Rosary @ 7:30pm

Tues 11 April Drumbo & Carryduff @ 7:30pm

Wed 12 April St Bernadette's, Rosetta @ 7:30pm

Triduum Services for Holy Week

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm, followed by procession to Altar of Repose, Adoration until 10.00pm Night Prayer.

Good Friday Passion of the Lord: in English 3pm, in Polish 7:30pm

Holy Saturday Blessing of Food in Polish, begins at 9am. Easter Vigil at 9pm.

Volunteers needed for Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday.

Eucharistic Ministers & Readers also needed for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil services. Table in Sacristy for names, please fill in slot where you would be available.

Parish Safeguarding. Can you please ensure that all Children and Vulnerable Adults are accompanied at all times when entering the Sacristy / Toilet facilities. If you have any queries regarding the Safeguarding Policy please contact a member of the Parish Safeguarding Committee. Many Thanks. Fr Henry PP.