

Parish Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 7 April 2019
Cycle C | Issue 19

DOWN AND DIRTY

When you think of it, God gets down and dirty into the earth on a few occasions. When God created Adam, he was fashioned from the earth. God became an undertaker and buried Moses, his servant, in some unknown place on Mount Nebo. In the person of Jesus, God uses spittle and clay to make a healing paste for a blind man. In today's Gospel, Jesus stoops down and writes in the dust to defend a woman accused of adultery. Maybe you can think of other instances of God using

the dirt? We think a little deeper on this, as we gather on the edge of Holy Week: when Adam is formed, we have a life before sin. With Moses and the wandering, straying people we have a life after sin that leads to death. Finally, we have Jesus bringing a new chance at life for the woman caught in adultery – an experience of resurrection. Life, death and resurrection are all there.

We can wonder aloud about the man involved – where was he? Was Jesus doodling down the names and sins

Today's Readings



Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 125
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 21:8-9.17-20.23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

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of the woman's accusers in the dust? But it is more important to know that Jesus gives freedom and grace – not a cheap grace mind you: she is not to sin any more. But it is given. We haven't really changed a lot all these centuries later. We've just replaced stoning with shaming. Less physically brutal but equally damaging.

Adultery, properly thought about, is a very broad concept. Can any of us truly say that we're not holding out, that we have given ourselves, completely and without reservation to another person or to God? You don't have to be married for this one. We've all got people we love, even if they aren't a spouse. How loyal are we to them? In an era of multi-tasking, how much of ourselves do we give them? From our

time and our hearts and minds. Being faithful means missing out, in some respects, on all the things you could be doing – you choose this path, this person and – for the Christian – this God.

Some have said we should rename this Gospel, from 'the woman caught in adultery', to be the story of 'the men caught trying to throw stones'. But this is above gender politics. Sometimes it is people like the prodigal son of last week and today's woman caught in adultery – people who have fallen the furthest – who understand and appreciate most the grace and mercy of God.

– Tom Cox



Reflection

Listen to the accusing scribes and Pharisees and watch Jesus writing on the ground.



Lesson

The Gospel today narrates the story of the woman caught in adultery. The message of love for the sinner that Jesus constantly proclaimed is nowhere better illustrated than in this story.

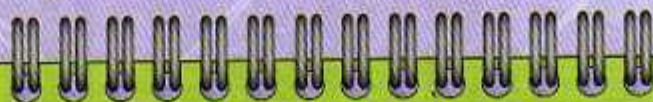


Prayer

Lord, do not call to mind my sins and failings but make of me a new creation.

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

– Mahatma Gandhi



This Week (8-14 April)

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| 8 | Mon | St Dionysius |
| 9 | Tue | St Waldetrudis, religious |
| 10 | Wed | St Fulbert, bishop |
| 11 | Thur | St Stanislaus, bishop and martyr |
| 12 | Fri | St Julius I, pope |
| 13 | Sat | St Martin I, pope and martyr |
| 14 | Sun | PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION |



ST PAULS is an activity of the Priests and Brothers of the Society of St Paul who proclaim the Gospel through the media of social communications. Tel: 01-6285933

PN19C



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—YEAR C PASSION SUNDAY

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 8:1-11

1. *Compassion for human frailty combined with a gentle challenge to a better life marked the response of Jesus. From whom have you experienced a compassionate challenge? What was that like for you? To whom have you given such a challenge?*

2. *The Pharisees and scribes self-righteously condemned the woman until Jesus brought them in touch with their own sinfulness. This was a conversion moment for them and they turned away from their quest for the death of the woman. Have there been times when your awareness of your own fragility and sinfulness has helped you to be less judgemental of others?*

3. *'What do you say?' can be an embarrassing question. Jesus had the courage to voice an opinion, even though it was against the party line of the day. When you have seen that courage shown, by yourself, or by another? What was the result?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Paul McCaughan (brother of Fr Aidan), Winnie Fleming (mother of Fr Paul)

Anniversaries: Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 7th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corsecadden



Sun 14th April (PALM SUNDAY)

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Sarah Corsecadden & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard



COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £579.90, Shrines £87.13.

New Boxes of Envelopes are now available. If you would like to receive a Box (and sign a Gift Aid declaration), or if your details are changed, please contact Fr McCann ASAP.

Passiontide begins this weekend, and there is the tradition of veiling crosses and sacred images and statues of saints until the Triduum, as a sign of mourning for the Lord's sufferings. Even the readings, from John's gospel, from now on, build up to the events of our Lord's passion.

Lenten Stations of the Cross. Every Friday after 7pm Novena Mass.

Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). We thank Fr John O'Donoghue for visiting the parish last weekend and talking to us about the work of the White Fathers. If anyone wishes still to donate to their collection taken up last week, they may take an envelope and place donation into the collection baskets.

Fundraising. The Polish Community is organising funds for a family from Poland. They are grandparents who look after grandchildren, but now they have lost their house, due to a gas pipe explosion. They have lost everything. The Polish city council is helping with clothes and temporary accommodation they need our help as well. Together we can help build a new house for them. A special collection will be organised for the masses next weekend. More information forthcoming. Please support this worthy cause.

Trocaire's Lenten Campaign. 2.5 million people may have been affected by the devastating cyclone and floods that have hit southern Africa. Trocaire is responding on the ground with life-saving support and the Lenten campaign will help not only the people in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe but thousands of others facing hardship across the developing world. www.trocaire.org

Food Bank. We are again collecting toiletries and non-perishable foodstuffs as part of a Food Bank working with local parishes. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the bags provided.

Holy Week Ceremonies Liturgy Sheet. A sheet for volunteer readers and eucharistic ministers, and other volunteer roles can be found in the Sacristy. They include times, ministries and other roles within the liturgy. Please put your name in the time slots if you are willing to participate.

Evangelium Course on the Creed A course to deepen our understanding of the fundamentals of our faith, as explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, will begin in St Anthony's church after Easter, on Thursdays, 7:30-9pm, starting on Thursday 9th May. If you are interested, contact Fr McCann or put name on sheet in Sacristy.

St Vincent De Paul Clare Lodge Holiday Home in Newcastle Co Down are taking bookings for day trips lunches, tea, coffee and biscuits; overnight or weekly stay overs; conference meetings, etc. Everyone welcome. SVDP does not discriminate against Colour or Creed. Open all year round. Any information required contact Regina or Tom on Telephone 028437 22849 or email clare.lodge@svpni.co.uk. Looking forward to meeting with you.

Rosary at the Grottos. Join thousands of people around Ireland as we go to our local Grottos to pray the Rosary each day during the month of May at 8pm (unless otherwise stated). To sign up your local Grotto simply visit www.coastalrosaryireland.ie or call/text 087 278 6552.

Down and Connor Diocesan Bi-Annual Pilgrimage To Fatima, led by The Most Reverend Bishop Noel Treanor DD, 15-22 August 2019. 7 Nights Full Board Hotel Avenida, £715 Includes Taxes and Insurance. Pilgrimage Directors Fr G McCloskey and Fr S Gilmore. For Further Details Contact Joe Catney - 028 9071 4001 or 077 7642 5631.

Elmwood Chamber Orchestra Concert. The Elmwood Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Fr Gerard Magee (Chaplain, Queen's University Belfast), will give a concert in the Great Hall in the Lanyon Building at Queen's University on Sunday 7th April at 3pm. Music by Arensky, Wagner and Mozart. Tickets at the door: Adult £10; Student £5

50th Anniversary of The Irish Church Music Association. Founded in 1969 the ICMA is celebrating 50 years of its existence this year in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Rejoice and Sing - Celebrating 50 Years of the Irish Church Music Association - Remembering, Celebrating and Moving Forward is the theme for this year's celebrations. Celebrations will begin with a two-day Conference beginning 1-2 July. Keynote speakers are Fr Michael Joncas and Professor Lizette Larson-Miller. Fr Michael Joncas continues as the guest director for the Summer School. Booking forms and flyers available in church porch

Pro-Life Information Meeting: Precious Life will be hosting an information evening regarding the upcoming elections with advice on candidates and their stance on abortion. This will take place on Thursday 11th April @7pm Queen's University Students' Union, Belfast, Clubroom 4. All welcome. For more information contact Precious Life on 02890278484 or email info@preciouslife.com.

Feast of Divine Mercy. The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in Belfast on 28th April in:

St. Peter's Cathedral, Falls Road and Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road - starts at 2:15pm with Holy Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Holy Mass.

St. Paul's Church, Falls Road - starts at 1:30 with Exposition and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Holy Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass. Poster and flyers in the porch.

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 McCann PP.