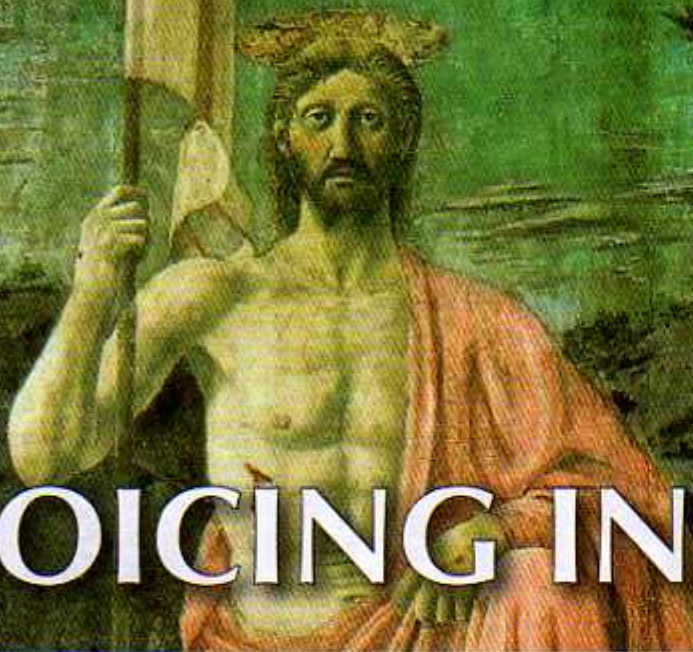


Parish Newsletter

EASTER SUNDAY | 1 April 2018
Year B | Issue 18



REJOICING IN HOPE

Three “R”s – **R**eturn, **R**evelation and **R**enewal – help to shed some light on understanding the mystery of the Resurrection. In the first reading Peter refers to Jesus and his ministry before the events of recent days. He speaks of witnessing with others to the fact of Jesus’ return, ‘we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead’.

These chosen witnesses had the privilege of recognising Jesus after his return after dying on the cross. This fact

changes everything, commissioning Peter and his companions to proclaim faith in the continuing presence of Jesus. His return in glory is the reason for Christian faith. Paul professes that the risen Jesus has been raised to sit ‘at God’s right hand’. This relationship of Jesus to God His heavenly Father does not mean His removal from the world but rather the revelation of His continuing relevance in and for the lives of Christians. Paul reminds his readers of the realisation that the real ‘life you have is hidden with Christ.

Today's Readings



Acts 10:34-37-43
Psalm 117:1-2,16-17,22-23
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8
John 20:1-9

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 117:2-4,13-15,22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31

(continued on back page)

in God'. Repeating 'he is your life' reinforces the message to focus minds and hearts on what really matters. This revelation of life in Christ is the reason for Christian hope.

The prayers and preface of the Mass refer to the result of Jesus' return and

the hope that 'through the renewal brought by your Spirit, [may] rise up in the light of life'. References to the church being 'wondrously reborn' and the restoration of life through Christ's rising from the dead are rooted in the 'unfailing love and favour' of God for the Church 'so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection'.

The renewal of life in Christ is the reassurance of Christian hope. This is reflected in the Gospel reading where Mary, Peter and John, the beloved disciple, are the first to realise 'the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead'. For them and for all who follow in the Resurrection faith, hope is renewed as they rejoice in the return of Jesus in glory and regard their future as rooted in His revelation of being eternally with the Father and the Spirit.

— Kevin O'Gorman SMA

'Jesus on the Cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it, he defeats it with his resurrection.'

— Pope Francis

revelation after the Resurrection which is renewal. The Opening Prayer offers



Reflection

How can I recognise the Risen Lord's presence, promise and power in my life?



Lesson

'Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force' (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 276)



Prayer

Father, through the return and revelation of your Risen Son renew my life through the Holy Spirit.

This Week (2–8 April)

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 2 | Mon | Easter Monday |
| 3 | Tue | Easter Tuesday |
| 4 | Wed | Easter Wednesday |
| 5 | Thur | Easter Thursday |
| 6 | Fri | Easter Friday |
| 7 | Sat | Easter Saturday |
| 8 | Sun | SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy) |





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)



FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 20:1-9

In some ways this gospel is a difficult one for prayer. It only presents a part of the story and the full unfolding of the good news the story contains lies in the next part of the text. However, even with this section there is plenty of material for reflection and for prayer.

1. *The disciples are in a state of shock and suffering from a traumatic loss. Jesus, the one in whom they had placed so much hope, has been murdered and buried. Then, before they have time to recover, comes another shock – the body of Jesus is missing. Have you had experiences in which one tragedy or crisis follows quickly after another? What was that like for you? How did you cope? What, or who, sustained you then?*

2. *Mary and Peter, and possibly others, came and discovered that the tomb was empty. The part of the story we have in this text gives no explanations of what has happened. They are left in a state of bewilderment 'for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.' Have you been in that kind of a situation, faced with events you cannot explain, possibly events which have dashed your hopes in another person, or in God? What has that been like for you?*

3. *Yet in spite of the lack of explanation, the beloved disciple 'saw and believed'.*

Have there been times when others have done something that you could not understand, and which they could not explain at the time and yet you believed that all was not as it seemed; times when you decided to trust in spite of the evidence?

Have there been times when others have shown this kind of faith in you when you were not able to offer satisfactory explanations, and all you could say was 'trust me'?

Have there been times in your relationship with God when you have felt that you were faced with an empty tomb and still you believed?

Where have you found life in such experiences?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Jimmy McBride, Jude Offodum

Anniversaries: Mary Hughes, Frederick Charles McGreevy, Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 1st April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Shauna Mullen

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 8th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £903.97, Needy Parishes £7, Monthly Stipend £15, Shrines £97.74.

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. New boxes of envelopes are available this weekend. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann

Trocaire Boxes: Convert coins to notes and place into envelope provided, and write names and addresses on envelopes. Make cheques available to Trocaire. Collections should be returned within the next TWO weeks.

Times of Masses for Easter Week:

Easter Monday: Polish Masses 9am & 12noon. English Mass at 11am

Easter Tuesday, Easter Thursday & Easter Friday: English Mass at 9.30am

Course for Ministers of the Word. The second part of this programme, will take place on Monday evenings, 7-9.30pm, (including 30 minutes break), continuing 9th & 23rd April. St Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast. Handouts available in the sacristy for those who cannot attend.

The Elmwood Chamber Orchestra Concert. The Elmwood Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Fr Gerard Magee (Chaplain, Queen's University, Belfast) will present a concert of music by JS Bach, Bela Bartok and Ludwig van Beethoven, on Saturday 14th April, 2018, at 3pm in the College Hall, St Malachy's College, 36 Antrim Road, Belfast. Ticket prices (at the door): Students £5, Non-students £10. All enquiries to g.magee@downandconnor.org.

Feast of Divine Mercy. The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in Belfast on 8th April in:

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

St. Paul's Church, Falls Road – starts at 1:30 with Exposition and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Holy Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass.

Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road – starts at 2:30 with Holy Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass.

Mary's Meals will be having a Sale and Raffle this Sunday 25th March (Palm Sunday). Ballot Tickets are on sale before and after 11.30am mass. All proceeds to Mary's Meals. Thank you for your support.

Easter Monday Open Day at Drumalis, Larne, Monday, 2 April from 12 noon – 4 pm. The house and grounds will be open for all to enjoy – there will be opportunities for guided tours of the heritage house. Afternoon teas will be available. Everyone is welcome – admission is free. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact 028 28272196/28276455 (during office hours – Mon-Fri, 9 am – 5 pm)

Handel's Messiah, a dramatic staging by John Ramster, in its ninth tour, already seen by over 7000 people, will be hosted in St Katherine's Parish Church, 2-4 Dunlambert Park, Belfast BT15 3NJ, on Friday 6th April 2018 at 7pm. £15. Box Office: www.merryopera.co.uk or 07933 588355 and at the door. See poster.

Time for a New Challenge. Are you interested in becoming a Facilitator with ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service, Ireland's leading provider of marriage preparation courses? Would you like to share your positive married experience with engaged couples preparing for their married life together? ACCORD is a voluntary Catholic organisation that aims to promote a deeper understanding of Christian marriage and to offer people the means to safeguard and nourish their marriage and family relationships. Professional training is provided - Certificate in Marriage Education (Special Purpose Award) Accredited by: Pontifical University, St Patrick's College Maynooth. Please contact ACCORD Belfast Centre, 02890 339944. Email belfast@accordni.com for further information. Closing Date – 27th APRIL 2018. ACCORD - centres Nationwide. More information is available on: www.accord.ie

JEFF CAVINS – Saturday 21st April. The Gospel of the Family – Joy for the World. The Living Church office is delighted to welcome Jeff Cavins, international author, guest speaker and the Director of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. As we prepare for the World Meeting of Families, Jeff will be leading a day where we can reflect on the Gospel of the family and consider how we share our faith within our families. On the day internationally renowned artists The Priests will be leading us in prayer and music and we will have a selection of workshops. To register you can book online www.livingchurchevents.com The event takes place in Our Lady and Saint Patrick's College Knock. Tickets for the day are £15 including lunch and refreshments.

St Anthony's 80th Anniversary: This year we celebrate 80 years since the first mass was celebrated in St Anthony's Church. We, the current parishioners, will be hosting events during the year to celebrate this milestone and the year will culminate with a mass on Tuesday 16th October 2018 @ 7:30pm. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all Parishioners old and new to come along and join in the celebrations. We are hoping to update the 50th Jubilee celebration book with more recent anecdotes and photographs. In order to help organise various aspects of this celebration we are looking for volunteers to be part of a committee. If interested please give your details to Fr McCann. [

Wishing you all every God's blessings in the joys of the Risen Christ!

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.