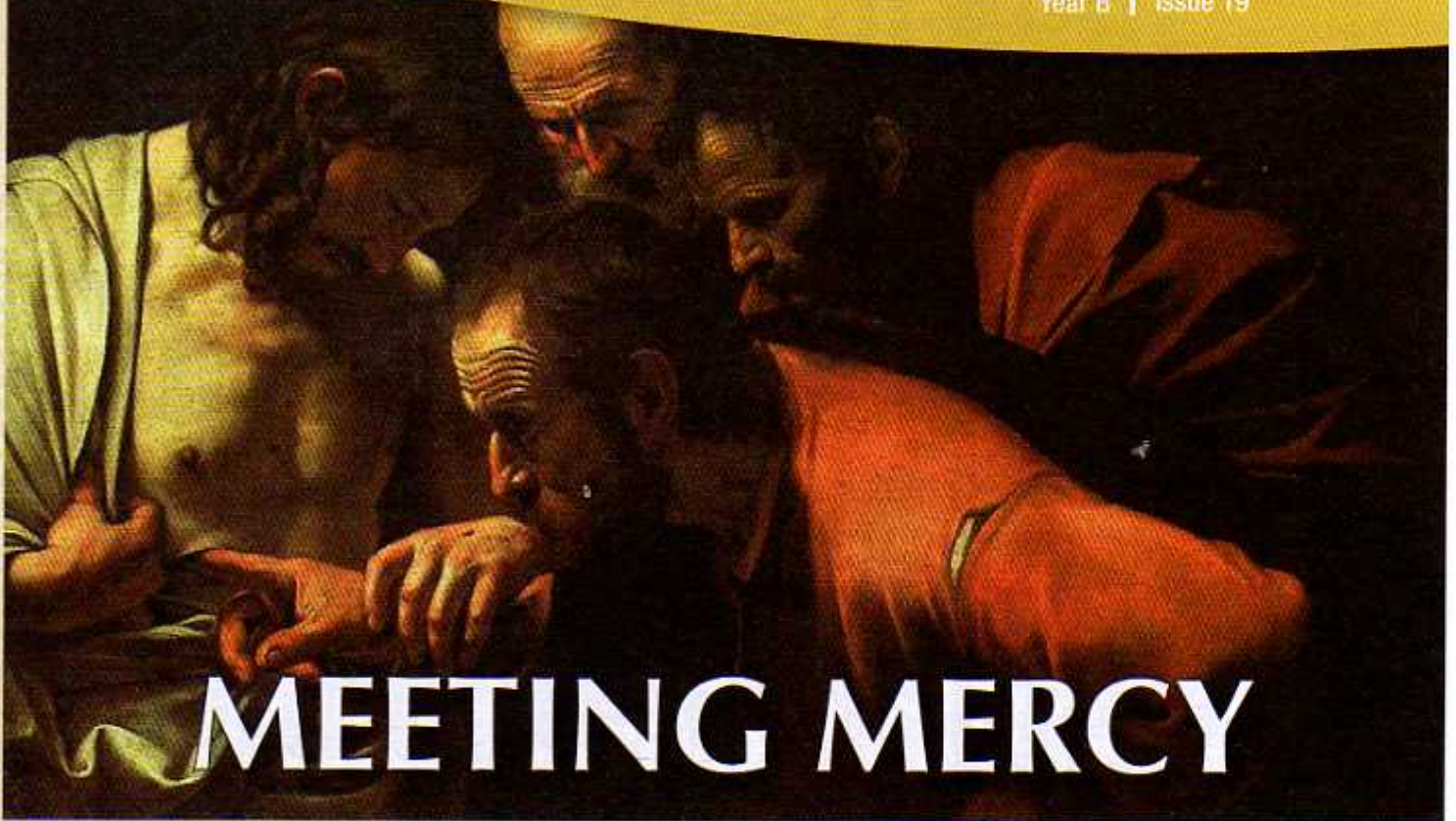


Parish Newsletter



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (Divine Mercy Sunday) | 8 April 2018
Year B | Issue 19



MEETING MERCY

In his Message for the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis stated that the words 'Patient and merciful often go together in the Old Testament to describe God's nature'. In the New Testament they come together to describe, as Francis formulated in the first line of that document, 'Jesus Christ [who] is the face of the Father's mercy'. On this Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, we are invited to encounter the mercy of God the Father

in the face of Jesus His Beloved Son.

In today's Gospel Thomas tries the patience of the other ten disciples. His rejection of the return and revelation of the Risen Jesus could have reminded them – especially Peter – of their proud boasts that they would be by Jesus' side to the end, even the bitter end, boasts which brought them shame. However, there was no touch of recrimination or rejection in their

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 3:13-15, 17-19
Psalm 4:2, 4, 7, 9
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48

(continued on back page)

response to Thomas. Their experience of Jesus coming from the grave in glory gave them space to be patient with Thomas and allow him to remain, coming and going as he wished. This

'You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me.'

– John 20:29

is the patience of faith which produces hope and is proven in the practice of compassion.

In his eventual encounter with the Risen Jesus, Thomas experiences both

patience and mercy. After greeting the gathering in peace, Jesus goes to Thomas and in a rare moment of vulnerability in the Gospel of John he reveals his wounds. This reaching out to the one who refused to accept the testimony of his twin and fellow travellers is proof of the patience of God who tries time and time again to bring back the stray, the sceptical, the sinner.

Thomas meets mercy in the person of Jesus who was shown no mercy himself in the events that conspired to crucify him. Instead of his intransigence Thomas is invited to insert his finger and hand into the side of Jesus, to touch the wounds of the Saviour. His immediate response, 'My Lord and my God', identifies Jesus for all time as Son of God. The everlasting mercy of God (Opening Prayer) is enfleshed in Jesus, especially in the wounds he endured for Thomas and for all thereafter who take his words to heart. ■

– Kevin O'Gorman SMA



Reflection

How can I reach out in mercy to those in doubt, difficulty or danger?



Lesson

'No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. May she intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God' (Pope Francis, The Face of Mercy, 24).



Prayer

Father of mercies, makes us missionaries of mercy through the compassion of Your Son and the consolation of the Holy Spirit.



This Week (9–15 April)

- 9 Mon** THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
- 10 Tue** St Fulbert
- 11 Wed** St Stanislaus, bishop and martyr
- 12 Thur** St Julius I
- 13 Fri** St Martin I, pope and martyr
- 14 Sat** St Peter Gonzalez
- 15 Sun** THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER





St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

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Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@downandconnor.org,
henrymccann@hotmail.com, Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

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)



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 20:19-31

1. 'Peace be with you' was the greeting of Jesus on meeting his frightened apostles. Who has come to you bringing peace at times when you were frightened? For whom have you been an agent of peace?
2. Thomas, doubting and questioning, is possibly a person with whom we can identify. What part have doubting and questioning played on your faith journey? How has your faith been strengthened by such moments?
3. Note the way Jesus dealt with Thomas. He did not give out because he doubted. He took him where he was and led him along to see the truth of his resurrection. Who has been that kind of a teacher for you, gently taking you where you were and leading you on to a deeper knowledge of some truth about life? For whom have you been that kind of teacher?
4. 'Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed.' That requires great trust. Perhaps you have had the experience of being trusted without having had to prove every step along the way. What was it like to be trusted in that way? Who have you been able to trust in a similar manner?

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher,

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 8th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 15th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Easter Collection £1380.68, Holy Land Collection £388.20, Weekly Collection £276.15, Trócaire Collection £1102.70, Shrines £127.97

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.

Trócaire Boxes: Convert coins to notes and place into envelope provided, and write names and addresses on envelopes. Make cheques available to Trócaire. Collections should be returned BY NEXT WEEKEND 15th April.

Trócaire Climate change film screenings. Trócaire & CADA NI are screening two films about climate change during Belfast Film Festival. Wasted! The Story of Food Waste is on 17th April 2018 at 7.00pm in St George's Market & An Inconvenient Sequel is on 18th April 2018 at 7.00pm in the Crescent Arts Centre. Tickets: £5 belfastfilmfestival.org. Jeannie McCann - Campaigns Officer, NI, Trócaire, Belfast. Email: jeannie.mccann@trocaire.org. Phone: +44 (0) 28 90 808 841. www.trocaire.org.

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 Many thanks to all who supported the Mary's Meals Raffle and Cake sale on Palm Sunday which made £323. The winners of the Raffle 1st Prize Raymond Hetherington, 2nd Prize Lily Weir.

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 come to a meeting in the John Paul II meeting room on Tues 24th April at 7:30pm.

"The Priests" at St Killian's College: The Friends of Garron Tower are pleased to announce that 'The Priests' will perform in a Fund Raising concert, in aid of the refurbishment of the College Chapel, at Garron Tower on Sunday 27th May at 6.30pm. Tickets are priced at £30 and can be purchased by contacting the College on the following telephone number 028 2888 5202. *Seating is limited to 320 therefore ticket allocation will be on a first come first served basis.*

Macartney School of Irish Dance: Opening Monday 9th April and all children 4+ welcome. Registered with CLRG. Classes Mondays and Wednesdays: 4-5pm for beginners and 5-6pm for intermediate/advanced. Monday class in Jacqui Philpott's Dance Studio 388 Ormeau Road (behind the Co- Op) and Wednesday in Shaftesbury Bowling Club, Annadale Avenue. Please contact prior to travelling to Wednesday class as venue may change. Contact Bronagh/Claire for more details: mob:07561760773 or @MacartneySID on Facebook and Instagram.

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.