

Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | 15 April 2018
Year B | Issue 20



SAVED FROM SIN

Talk of the 'sin bin' in sport, carbon sinning (in the sense of contributing to the pollution of the environment) and other variations on the theme could suggest that sin is solely a secular idea without any reference or relevance to the moral and spiritual lives of believers. The reality check of evil and its effects in the world reveals that nothing could be further from the truth. Sin is evil seen through the lens of faith. If a loss of faith leads to a loss of a sense of sin, the lack of a sense of sin is a sign of the

need to speak seriously about the need for salvation. Sin is a violation of God's law, a rupture of relationships with God and others. Sin is the refusal to love God and neighbour, to look beyond self-concern as the only criterion of what matters.

Each of today's readings refers to sin. Peter admonishes his audience, advising them 'to repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out'. The call to conversion is a continual one, not confined to Lent.

Today's Readings



Acts 3:13-15.17-19
Psalm 4:2.4.7.9
1 John 2:1-5
Luke 24:35-48

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 4:8-12
Psalm 117:1.8-9.21-23.26.28-29
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

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Turning to God involves turning away from sin throughout the whole of one's life. Saint John speaks of Christ as 'the sacrifice that takes our sins away'. Turning to God and having one's sins

'It is the road of mercy, on which we meet so many of our brothers and sisters who reach out for someone to take their hand and become a companion on the way.'

– Pope Francis (*Misericordia et Misera*)

taken away is conversion on course to salvation. The purpose of Christ's sacrifice and the purification from sin is presented positively, so that 'God's love comes to perfection' in us. Saint Luke

speaks of proclaiming to all peoples 'repentance for the forgiveness of sins'.

The fruit of forgiveness of sins is freedom from the tendency and temptation to destroy oneself and others, freedom from spiritual death. The prayers of today's Mass express the Easter mystery of salvation. This is the renewal and restoration that results in rejoicing so that 'we may look forward in confident hope'. 'Given cause for such great gladness' the Church hopes 'in perpetual happiness' so that we can enjoy 'the incorruptible glory of the Resurrection'. The measure of the Church's remedy for sin is not the meting out of penalties but meeting the mercy of God. This is the message of salvation, of being forgiven and set free to experience and exhibit the freedom of the children of God. Living the Christian life leads away from the death of sin. This is the light of the Easter Christ that extinguishes the darkness. ■

– Kevin O'Gorman SMA



Reflection

How does the call to repentance continue to resonate in me?



Lesson

'Above all, love is greater than sin, than weakness; it is stronger than death; it is a love always ready to raise up and forgive, always ready to go to meet the prodigal son' (Saint Pope John Paul II, *Redemptori hominis* –The Redeemer of Humanity, 9).



Prayer

Lord, lead me from darkness to light, from sin to salvation, from death to life.



This Week (16–22 April)

- 16 Mon** St Bernadette Soubirous
- 17 Tue** St Stephen Harding; St Robert
- 18 Wed** St Lasarian, bishop
- 19 Thur** St Fortunata
- 20 Fri** St Beuno
- 21 Sat** St Anselm
- 22 Sun** FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER





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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 24:35-48

1. When we are not expecting it to happen, even a good event can startle us. So it was with the disciples when Jesus appeared to them. He sought to calm them and helped them to see the good news behind what had initially alarmed them. Who has been a Jesus person for you by helping you to find meaning and good news in life?

2. Jesus helped the disciples to find new hope, but he did not give them easy answers. He asked them to see the facts before their eyes. He wanted them to learn from the lived experience they were having. As a parent, teacher, friend or guide, have you been a Jesus person to another, helping him/her to find hope and purpose in life by learning from his/her experiences? Who has done this for you?

3. Jesus opened their minds to 'understand the scriptures', and the effect was transformative. Perhaps there have been times when a new and deeper understanding of scripture has had a transformative impact on you. Recall the experience and give thanks for those who opened the scriptures for you.

4. The resurrection experience empowered the disciples to be witnesses. Unexpected possibilities for the future surfaced when it seemed that hope had gone. When have new possibilities opened for you after a 'resurrection' experience: recovery of health when it did not seem possible, new opportunities after failure or disappointment, inner healing after a deep hurt, etc?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Fr Pat Gallagher, Maire Smythe, John Riordan, Evelyn Walls & Winnie McPhillips (Sun 15th April at 11:30am), John Mahoney (Tue 17th April at 9:30am), May Riordan (Thurs 19th April at 9:30am), Olive McCormick (Fri 20th April at 7pm), Mairead Hughes (Sat 21st April at 6:30pm).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 15th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Ann Flanagan
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 22nd April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £673.85, Holy Land Collection £23, Weekly Collection £137, Trócaire Collection (To date) £1142.70, Shrines £72.30. 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 at church door. 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 THIS WEEKEND 15th April. After this date you may send on your donations yourselves: Trócaire, 50 King St, Belfast, BT1 6AD.

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 final session of the Course for Ministers of the Word will be on 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.

JEFF CAVINS – Saturday 21st April. The Gospel of the Family – Joy for the World. 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. 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 Paull II meeting room on Tues 24th April at 7:30pm.

"The Priests" at St Killian's College: 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.

Adoration Convent Shop. First Communion gifts, prayer books, rosaries, and accessories are available in our convent shop, St Joseph's, at very reasonable prices. We also carry a range of items for baptism, and confirmation as well as prayer cards, candles, icons, and Catholic Children's books. What we don't stock we can order! Adoration Convent, 63 Falls Road, Belfast. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (except 11:30-2pm). Tel 028 9024 7175 or 02890 325 668 out of hours.

World Meeting of Families – Tickets and Registration. • Everyone who registers online to attend one or three days of the Pastoral Congress (22-24 August), is guaranteed to receive tickets for the Festival of Families (Croke Park, Saturday 25th August) and the Final Mass (Phoenix Park, Sunday 26th August). • Those who only wish to register for the Festival of Families or the Final Mass need to be aware that tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability. • To register online please go to www.worldmeeting.ie/en/Tickets/Tickets-Registration. • To enquire about accommodation please go to www.worldmeeting.ie/en/Ireland/Accommodation. • Alternatively call the national office – 0035316909409. • If you have any other queries contact the Diocesan Office – family@downandconnor.org.

Lough Derg Three-Day Pilgrimages and One-Day Retreats. Three-Day Pilgrimages start Friday 1st June and end Monday 13th August. Admission €75. Concessions students, seniors and groups. One-Day retreats begin Saturday 5th May and end Sunday 30th September. Pilgrims keep footwear on, no fasting, refreshments and light lunch with guided prayer. Admission €45, concessions for groups. Booking essential. See poster in 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 PP.