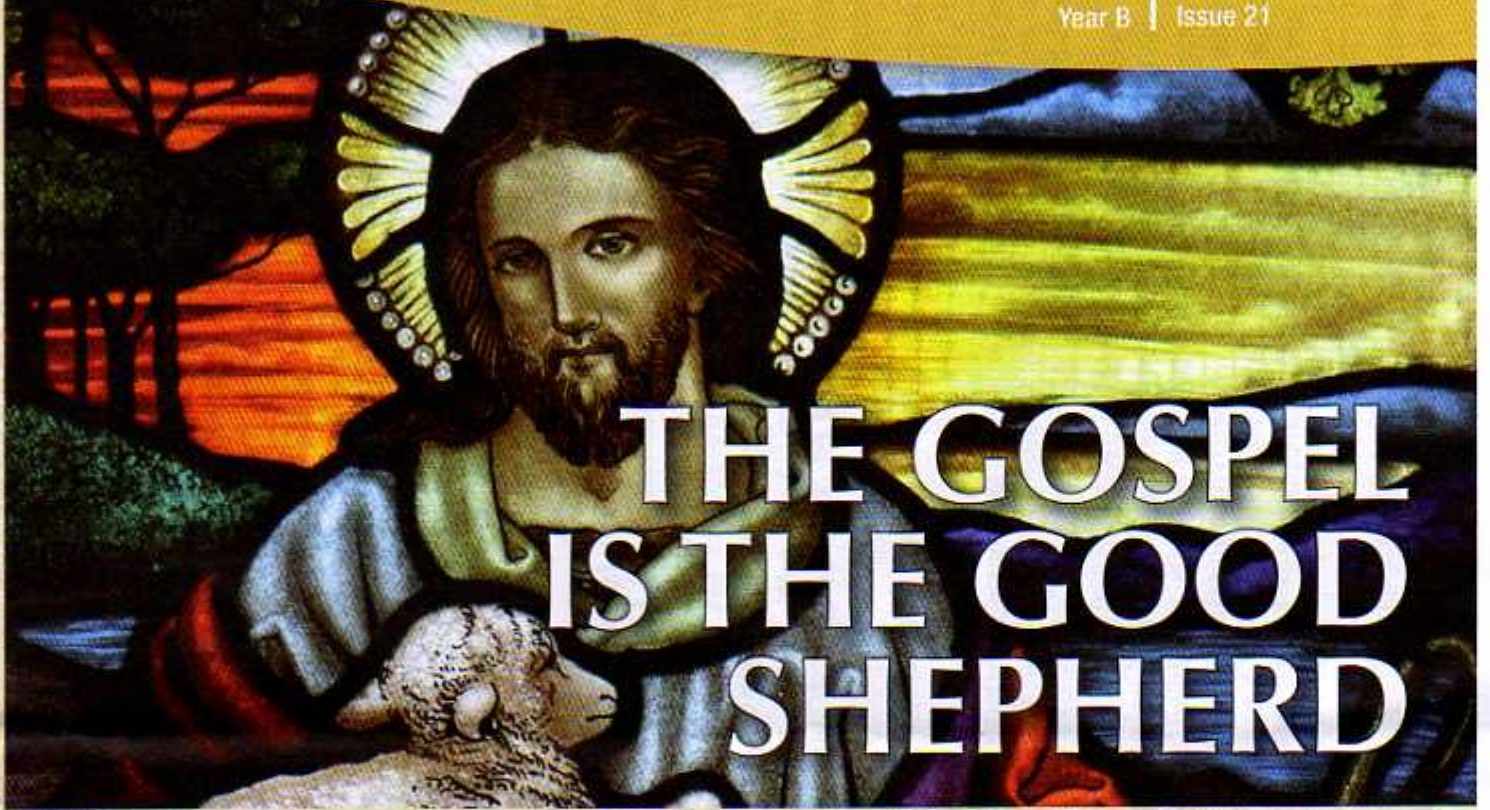


Parish Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 22 April 2018
Year B | Issue 21



THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

There are two images of Jesus Christ – stone and shepherd – in today's readings. In the first reading Peter boldly addresses the rulers and elders, accusing them of rejecting the stone that is Christ and the Gospel that he communicated. Jesus himself used the imagery of building on rock rather than sand at the end of his Sermon on the Mount. His teaching was intended as the foundation for the life of Christian discipleship, giving support in time of trial and tempest.

Though his teaching was rejected and he was crucified, Peter is happy to proclaim that through the Resurrection Jesus 'has proved to be the keystone'. In a time when there is talk of 'fake news' and 'post truth' in the media and public discourse, truth and the teaching of truths can be casualties. The Church continues to proclaim Christ as the 'Way, Truth and Life'. The Gospel gives believers a spiritual space in which they can find solidarity and solace.

Today'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

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 21:26-28.30-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

(continued on back page)

The figure of Jesus as the shepherd is one of the most ancient in Christian art. Originating in Jesus' own witness and work, his words 'I am the Good Shepherd' are among the most consoling in the Bible. His parable about the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep to search for the single stray suggests the extent to which God's mercy goes. The icon of Jesus carrying a lamb or sheep on his shoulders indicates great tenderness.

Today's Gospel goes deeper than these depictions with the declaration that 'the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep'. Jesus

repeats this truth twice, telling how he lays down his life freely and fully. The good shepherd not only searches for and supports the sheep in his care but sacrifices himself for them. The idea of a shepherd giving his life for some or even all of his sheep appears surprising, even shocking. This is the mystery of salvation, set in stone and told in the story of a singular shepherd.

– Kevin O'Gorman SMA



Reflection

How can I support and serve others in and through the Church?



Lesson

'The Cross is at the centre of the shepherd discourse. Here Jesus interprets for us what happens at the institution of the Eucharist: He transforms the outward violence of the act of crucifixion into an act of freely giving his life for others. Jesus does not give something, but rather he gives himself. And that is how he gives life' (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth, p. 280).



Prayer

Father, gather us into the fold of the Kingdom through the Spirit of your Son's self-sacrificial love.



This Week (23–29 April)

- 23 Mon** ST GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND
- 24 Tue** St Fidelis of Sigmaringen
- 25 Wed** ST MARK, EVANGELIST
- 26 Thur** St Marcellinus
- 27 Fri** St Zita of Lucca
- 28 Sat** St Peter Chanel; St Louis Mary de Montfort
- 29 Sun** FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)

3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP, Tel. 028 90458158, Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@downandconnor.org.

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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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 10:11-18

1. Our relationship with those 'in charge' of us changes when we sense that not only are they in charge, but they care. Remember the difference that made for you as a child, and give thanks for the caring adults who were part of your life.

2. The good shepherd 'lays down his life for the sheep'. When has your care for another led you to 'lay down your life' for that person, e.g. as a friend, parent, spouse, son or daughter? When you have known another to do this for you?

3. Jesus speaks of the freedom of the Good Shepherd in laying down his life. Faced with the needs of others, we can at times feel trapped into looking after them, caught by duty, obligation, or guilt. We can become like the hired hands doing a job without care for the person. Perhaps you have experienced both attitudes, caring for others under duress and caring by your free choice. What difference did it make when you chose to care for the other, even in circumstances where you had little option?

4. What do these experiences of love and care in human relationships reveal to you about God's love for you?

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Fr Martin O'Callaghan, Dympna Kelso (aunt and godmother of Fr McCann)

Anniversaries: Maire Smythe, John Riordan, Evelyn Walls & Winnie McPhillips, John Mahoney, May Riordan, Olive McCormick, Mairead Hughes (Sat 21st April at 6:30pm).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 29th April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Shauna Mullen

Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: World Meeting of Families Collection £462.31, Needy Parishes £10, Holy Land Collection £5, Monthly Stipend £64, Weekly Collection £262.50, Shrines £73.40.

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: Any further donations can be forwarded yourselves to Trócaire, 50 King St, Belfast, BT1 6AD.

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.

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

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. In order for the pastoral areas to organise buses/transport please advise the Parishes if you have a ticket and would like to attend ASAP.

ACCORD invites applications for the Certificate in Counselling (Marriage and Relationship), for the academic year 2018/2019. The Certificate, validated by St. Patrick's College Maynooth, is aligned to Level 8, 20 ECTS on the National Framework of Qualifications and is aimed at qualified, experienced counsellors/psychotherapists who have: Degree/Diploma in Counselling/Psychotherapy; Completed a minimum of 200 client hours and have a current supervised caseload; Knowledge/Experience of the Person Centred Approach. Successful applicants' course and supervision fees funded by ACCORD. Training in Maynooth one weekend per month, September to June. Application Criteria and Form: <http://www.accord.ie/joining-accord/becoming-a-counselor>. Closing date: 18th May 2018.

130th year of continuous publication of The Sacred Heart Messenger, you are invited to Thanksgiving Mass in St John the Baptist Church, Garvaghy Rd, Portadown, on Sunday 29 April at 3 pm. Celebrant: Cardinal Seán Brady. Music with the church choir. Refreshments to follow. For more information please contact Caitriona by phone on 01 7758523 or by email c.maher@messenger.ie.

The paperback edition of Mgr Macaulay's book, The Holy See And the Campaign For Catholic Emancipation in Ireland And England will be available from Monday, 23rd April. Copies at £24.50 may be obtained from Mrs Mairead Granleese at 028 90381700.

"Walking Together as Families Today": Gathering in Preparation for the World Meeting of Families. St Patrick's College, Maynooth, 19-20 June 2018. Speakers, workshops, conversations, prayer, and much more, on variety of topics relating to family life. Registration: €15 (incl. lunch & teas/coffees). Tickets available on www.eventbrite.ie (under "Walking Together as Families Today"). Further info: contact Aoife at specialevents@spcm.ie Be part of it!

First Holy Communion:
Loughview Integrated Primary and Nursery School: Saturday 28th April at 11am
Polish: First Confession: Saturday 12th May at 10am.
First Communion: Sunday 13th May at 1pm

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.