

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

Pastoral Area of South & East Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald), 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP.
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Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

PUBLIC MASS TIMES—COVID-19 ERA (will be under assessment/review)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am. & 6:30pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Mon, Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7.00pm.

All English Masses on Facebook. Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment

Local SVP Conference contact details: 028 90351561



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas, was not at all rejoiced and was indignant.

He was imperfect. In need of mercy, as are we.

O Lord, you love us in our struggles.

Breathe your life into our flawed selves.

Let us find your grace and mercy

when we touch the wounds in all your children everywhere.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Brendan Doran, Louis Maguire, Rory Morgan, Joan McGiffin (funeral Tuesday 26th at 3pm), Paul Riordan (funeral 4th May at 12.30pm)

Anniversaries: John & Florric Guinness, Theresa McCann, Thomas Luck, Mairead Hughes (Sat 23rd April at 6:30pm).

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your support. Catholics in Holy land £294.60 Weekly £247. Easter Collection £1047.94, **Online Donate Button on Website £200**

We would appreciate that if you send in a cheque to pay for a number of different donations, that you itemise what amount should go to each collection. Also include all empty envelopes in the one envelope

NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES FOR 2022/2023 are available for collection. If you wish to have a box please contact Fr Henry.

Relaxation of Covid-19 Related Regulations & Restrictions. The pandemic is not over, and we will continue to live with the risks and effects of COVID-19 for some time. As a result, it is important that, in a spirit of Christian solidarity, we all do what we can to care for each other. Therefore, the Diocese continues to strongly recommend a number of protective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

1. **Face Coverings:** the Diocese strongly recommends that face coverings continue to be worn at all times in the church.
2. **Hand Sanitizers:** will continue to be provided at the entrances. Hand sanitizing when entering the church is strongly recommended.
3. **Social Distancing:** While we no longer have to observe social distancing in the church, we need to be distance aware, especially for the vulnerable present.
4. Those administering Holy Communion should continue to **sanitize their hands before & after distribution, & wear face coverings.**
5. **Communion in the hand** should remain the norm.
6. Here in St Anthony's we are to **return to the liturgical gestures of standing, sitting and kneeling, as marked in the missalette.**
7. At the Spring 2022 general meeting of the Irish Episcopal Conference, it has been decided that **"from Easter Sunday, the obligation on the Faithful to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is restored."** Though for anyone who is sick or vulnerable, the obligation does not apply

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2022. To return your donation we would ask that you convert any coins to notes, (you can do so e.g. by taking the coinage to Tesco's at Newtownbreda and place coins into the coin counting machine, and redeeming the voucher amount at customer services) and place into the envelope provided and return on Holy Thursday or as soon as possible after.

Trócaire Gala Concert at Clonard Monastery in Belfast at 7.30pm on Friday 20th May 2022 (doors will open at 6.30pm). Performers: Margaret Keys, The Priests and St Dominic's Girls School Choir and MC, Gerry Kelly. This event will support Trócaire's work in countries around the world, including projects in Zimbabwe which is the focus of this year's Lenten Appeal. Tickets will be available at a later date on a first come, first served basis and we will contact you again to let you know how to book them. Tickets will be free but there will be an option to make a donation on the night with all donations being matched as part of UK Aid Match funding in support of the Lent Appeal.

The Synodal Pathway. For more information about the Synodal Pathway see www.downandconnor.org/synod. Also take home the **Synodal Prayer Card** available in the porch.

Easter Raffle And Cake Fair in Aid of Mary's Meals. Congratulations to all who supported and indeed were winners in the Easter Raffle taken Palm Sunday. A phenomenal £525.40 for Mary's Meals. The Winners were 1st Eileen Young, 2nd John Monaghan, 3rd Seamus Murphy, 4th Seamus Curran, 5th Margaret Woods.

Rosary at the Grottos. The Rosary will be prayed each day during the month of May at hundreds of grottos around the island of Ireland. To see a list of locations, or to register a grotto (or other suitable location) simply visit www.coastalrosaryireland.ie. You can also register by texting 087 278 6552. (ROI) We are praying for Ireland and for peace in the world.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2022: Full board in hotel: 7 nights (8-15 September) from £689 per person sharing. For further enquiries and bookings contact Joe Carney 02890714001/0776425631

Lough Derg Re-opens. Three Day Pilgrimage 1st June -15th August. Booking advised. Concessions available for students, seniors and groups. One Day Retreats and guided Pilgrim Path experience: Dates in May and late August through September. Booking essential. All booking information at www.loughderg.org, email info@loughderg.org or telephone 00353 719861518. Lough Derg, Pettigo, Co. Donegal F94 N289

The Knights of St Columbanus - Commemorating the Centenary Anniversary of the death of its founder, local clergyman Canon James O'Neill (May 6th & 7th 2022), Marine Hotel Ballycastle. You are invited to join our event to mark this anniversary with guest speakers:

Friday 6th May 2pm: Bishop Noel Treanor Down & Connor
Followed by Dr. Eamon Phoenix-a talk on The Social, Political and Economic Times in Ireland of Canon O'Neill 100 years ago

Saturday 7th May 2pm: Mickey Harre, All Ireland Winning Manager-My Faith Journey. Please do come along to either event that are free to drop in and attend.

Young Adult Catholic Conference (18 - 40) - St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. Saturday April 30th, 10am - 5pm. Hear great speakers, meet new friends and discover more about your Catholic life. Cost €25, includes lunch. Search: Young Adult Catholic Conference on www.eventbrite.ie for more information and to book. See you there!

"Come Away and Rest Awhile" CARA RETREAT. Are you a parent of a young person with a disability? Would you like to take some time out to pray, reflect and meet other parents? If the answer is yes we would love you to join us for a parents retreat at: Drumalis Retreat Centre beginning Friday 24th June, 6pm until Saturday 25th June, 4pm. For information or to register your interest contact: Louise McQuillan Tel. 07922437679 Email: lmcquillan@downandconnor.org

A Biblical walk with the Blessed Mother - Online Course & Retreat Day, will take us through the Scriptures leading us into a deeper understanding of Mary's life. Although Mary is mentioned in only a few chapters of the entire Bible, these are filled with rich insight which will help us to understand Mary's humanity and the extraordinary mission to which she was called by God. The programme will begin on Monday 2nd May @7:00 pm for 5 weeks meeting online and then concluding with a Retreat day on Saturday 4th June 2022 10:00-4:30 pm. Venue: Parish centre, Parish of Maghera, Newcastle. The cost of the programme including your study materials and the retreat day (including lunch) is £35. To register e-mail livingchurch@downandconnor.org

Meditating with Mary in the month of May. Additionally, the Living Church office has prepared a resource for Parishes for the Month of May: Meditating with Mary in the month of May. A participants resource is designed to be delivered over three sessions and centres on the Annunciation, Visitation and Magnificat by reflecting on scripture, sharing our insights and closing in prayer. We will be holding a choice of two training sessions on Tuesday 26th April @7pm or Wednesday 27th April @7pm. If you have leaders in your Parish who you would like to run the programme they can book onto the training using the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/0Vm8VHTzGT> It is a resource that is also easily adaptable should you wish to use it alongside May Devotions and we can make printed copies available for your parish on request.

Job Vacancy For Parish Secretary. St. Malachy's Parish, Alfred Street are looking to appoint a part-time Parish Secretary. If interested, contact St. Malachy's Parish Office directly or see the diocesan website at <http://www.downandconnor.org> and click on the link for JOB VACANCIES.

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.



A COMMUNITY ON FIRE

The readings today give us some tantalising glimpses of the life of the early Christian community. Today we may envy their infectious enthusiasm and energy. Would that our Christian communities today had such an impact in modern society! Why is that not so? Is it not true that the source of the incredible vitality witnessed in the early church is not also available to us today? We also

have the presence of the Risen Lord, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and a mission from Jesus to be agents of forgiveness and reconciliation in our world.

In today's gospel we find the Apostles in a room with the doors locked because they were afraid of being attacked by the authorities of the day. Followers of Jesus were regarded as subversive. They were suspect and vulnerable. They had every reason to be afraid. To these frightened people the opening words of Jesus were 'Peace be with you'. Then he added the surprising

Next Sunday's Readings

Acts 5:27-32.40-41
Psalm 29:2.4-6.11-13
Apoc 5:11-14
John 21:1-19



words, 'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.' To a group of people whose main priority at the time was saving their own skin, this was hardly a welcome message. The last thing on their minds was going out and attracting attention to themselves by proclaiming their faith in Jesus. Far safer to stay behind closed doors. And yet, they did what Jesus told them to do. They went out and preached the word everywhere with the results described in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

This dramatic change in the behaviour of the Apostles would not have been possible unless they had some evidence that they could not deny of the presence of the Risen Lord with them. That same Risen

Lord is with us today, and not just when we are gathered for the Eucharist. He promised to be with us always. The Eucharist is a time when we gather to remember that promise and give thanks for it. It is a time when we bring the worries, anxieties and needs of our daily lives before God praying, 'give us this day our daily bread' – give us all we need in daily life to cope with what we have to face and to be able to live a life that is powered by love.

Jesus lived for others and he invites us to follow his example. He is with us as we try to do this and promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us along the way. ■

- John Byrne

Reflection

Think of the individuals and groups today whose energy and vitality inspire you.

Lesson

It is through us that the Reign of God becomes a reality in today's world

Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.



This Week (25 April – 1 May)

- 25 M** ST MARK, EVANGELIST
- 26 T** ST GEORGE, MARTYR
- 27 W** St Asicus, bishop
- 28 T** St Peter Chanel and St Louis Montfort
- 29 F** ST CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR
- 30 S** St Pius V, pope
- 1 S** THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

