

Parish Newsletter

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD | 6 AUGUST 2017
Year A | Issue 37

SPECIAL MOMENTS

Occasionally we experience a WOW moment, falling in love, the birth of a child, or seeing a breathtaking panorama. Often it is hard to put what it meant into words. The transfiguration was such a moment for the disciples. They saw Jesus as they had never seen him before. With a new clarity they saw God speaking to them through him. He was the one to be listened to and followed. They would look back on the experience and draw inspiration and courage from the memory when Jesus' predictions of

his passion turned out to be true. After the resurrection they showed that they had taken this message to heart as each one of them was prepared to give themselves to continue the mission of Jesus. Ultimately each of them would sacrifice his life for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel.

You can probably recall special moments in your own life to which you return for reassurance in difficult times. Neither our relationship with God, nor with another human person is always on a high. Memories of a moving

Today's Readings



Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
Psalm 96:1-2,5-6,9
2 Peter 1:16-19
Matthew 17:1-9

Next Sunday's Readings



1 Kings 19:9,11-13
Psalm 84:9-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

(continued on back page)



spiritual experience can encourage us when prayer is dry and we question our faith. Memories of happy moments in friendships can encourage us to persevere when a relationship or a friendship is going through a rough patch.

Unfortunately we cannot turn on a switch to get a new WOW moment to brighten a dull day. They come when least expected. They truly are moments of grace. Blessed are we when they

Reflection

What joyful memories do I recall to help me in times of difficulty?

Lesson

At times it is important for us to make time to reflect on what is happening to us in life.

Prayer

I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember your wonders of old. (Ps 77:11)

come. We need to be alert to welcome these moments of unexpected blessing, be grateful for them and treasure the memories to get encouragement as we continue our journey.

Yet we also need encouragement on a more routine or daily basis. Reflecting on this Gospel during the week I was struck by the introduction, "Jesus went up the mountain where they could be alone." There are times when we need to take a break. We cannot normally disappear to climb a mountain, but we can grab a few quiet moments in the midst of a busy day. We can decide to leave behind all the busyness and preoccupations, free our minds to be alone with ourselves, and with God. That mental exercise of stepping aside and creating space can be a blessing. I have often been pleasantly surprised with the result. The problems do not change but I can return changed in myself and tackle what needs to be done with a different attitude. ■

– John Byrne, OSA



This Week (7–13 August)

- 7 Mon** St Sixtus II and Companions, martyrs
- 8 Tue** St Dominic, priest
- 9 Wed** St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)
- 10 Thur** St Lawrence, deacon and martyr
- 11 Fri** St Clare, virgin
- 12 Sat** St Jane Frances de Chantal, religious
- 13 Sun** NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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 TRANSFIGURATION

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 17:1-9

1. The transfiguration experience was one that, for Jesus, clarified his relationship with his Father and strengthened him for the future. It was also a moment of deep revelation for the disciples. What have been the experiences, the moments of insight, which for you have clarified your sense of who you are, and what is your relationship with God?

2. The disciples were prepared for the experience by getting an invitation from Jesus to come apart, to withdraw to the mountain. Have there been times when going apart has been an important element in preparing you for a deep experience?

3. On the mountain the disciples saw Jesus in a new way. His appearance changed. Sometimes in friendship there are moments of sharing in which we get to know a friend in a new and deeper way. Have you had that experience in human friendship, or in your relationship with Jesus and God. Recall when that happened, and what it was like for you.

4. After their special experience the disciples came down the mountain again. We cannot live each day at the level of special spiritual experiences, but the memory of them can strengthen us in difficult times. What memories encourage you in time of trouble?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Maureen Meehan

Anniversaries: Frances Matthews, Jean O'Connor, Letty Murray, Neil Watson, Dan Gallagher, Robert (Bobbie) McParland (Sat 5th Aug at 6:30pm), Vincent Crilly (Sun 19th Aug at 6:30pm), Brenda Gunn (Sun 20th Aug at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

UPDATED ROTAS AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY (Sorry for Confusion)

Sun 6th August

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen & Maria Murphy
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 13th Aug

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Shauna Mullen
Morning Mass: Tracy Mallon & Margaret Sheppard

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Trócaire Emergency East Africa Appeal £1019.42. (If you have not yet given and would like to, please use the envelopes provided and write your name on the envelope). Weekly £674.09, Peter's Pence £5, Pastoral Services £16, Shrines £80.68. **NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. 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.

Pastoral Community Forum. As part of the development of pastoral communities within the diocese, each pastoral area is asked to find one volunteer who would work with the parish priest to represent the parish on a Pastoral Community Forum. As yet no one has come forward. If you would like to take part in the South and East Belfast Pastoral Community Forum, please give your name to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses English: Mon 14 (vigil) 7pm. & Tues 15th at 9:30am. Polish: Tues 15th at 7pm

CCJ-NI have a new venture starting... FIRST MONDAY STUDY. We have had many comments from members who have enjoyed Rabbi Singer's teaching at different events, so from Monday the 7th August we will be hosting an INTERACTIVE Bible Study on the first Monday of each month at 7:45pm. The topics for these studies will be the application of our faith in our daily lives. August will be titled "Truth through the Psalms". Numbers for these studies will be limited to allow for open discussion and interaction, so registration is a MUST on a first come, first served basis each month. For more information contact Sharon Lough (co-secretary), ccj.belfast@gmail.com, or phone 07925 926685. See poster in Porch.

Come all ye and sing for your supper in aid of children in Malawi. Informal music session, participate or listen, sing or be silent, maybe even dance! August 18th, 7:30-10pm, DOWNSHIRE COMMUNITY HALL, 1 Downshire Pk Central Cregagh Road. See poster in Church porch.

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is for individuals from any faith background (and none) who want to explore and enquire into the catholic faith. It is a weekly series of classes and discussion covering a wide range of aspects of the catholic faith. The weekly classes are on Thursday evenings and last 1hr.30mins. Ultimately, RCIA is a journey of faith exploration and development, culminating in the reception of the catechumens/candidates into the catholic community at Pentecost, if after their exploration and enquiry into the catholic faith the Holy Spirit inspires them to do so. (Catechumen participants are those who were never baptized. Candidate participants are those who were baptized into another faith denomination). The RCIA programme begins at St. Mary's, Chapel Lane on 5th October 2017. Should you wish to take part, please contact Fr. James Boyle MHM, or Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel: 02890 320482 Email: administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com. SEE POSTER IN THR PORCH.

Recruitment for Young Men for Morning Star House Legion of Mary. Will you lend a helping hand? The Legion of Mary needs young men between 16-18 to give 2 hours per week working for homeless men in Morning Star House Belfast. If you are interested or would like to find out more information, contact Michael at 077 6341 8867

Belfast Community Gospel Choir, St Mary's on the Hill Parish, Glengormley, have arranged that this acclaimed choir shall give a presentation of music and hymns in praise of God at St Bernard's Church, on Friday 6th October at 8pm. Tickets are £10 per adult and £5 per child and can be bought from the Repository, the parish office or online at begesmoth.eventbrite.co.uk, email begesmoth@gmail.com or call 07377 098094. See poster in porch

Faith Development Co-Ordinator, Diocese of Down and Connor Living Church Office. Fixed Term Contract for 3 years. A vacancy has arisen within the Living Church Office for the role of Faith Development Co-Ordinator. The post holder will provide support to the Director of the Living Church in the management of the day to business within the office, and will provide training and resources to enhance Faith Development across the Diocese of Down and Connor. The terms are based on a 3-year fixed term contract requiring 25 hours per week, however, flexibility will be required in relation to attendance and hours worked, in order to meet the business needs within the agency. If interested in making application for this post, please visit www.downandconnor.org for further information in relation to the application process and other Terms and Conditions connected to this role. Closing date for applications will be 12.00 noon on Wednesday 9th August 2017. See poster in Church porch. More information and applications from Fr McCann in the sacristy.

Learn the basic skills in cross stitching and create your own piece of embroidery. The informal class is in the Good Shepherd Centre (Holy Rosary Parish) on Saturday 19 August from 1.30pm until 4.30pm. Class fee is £10.00 which includes tuition, materials and refreshments. To book, contact Joanne, telephone 07990 945818.

Fatima Conference for Northern Ireland on September 8th and 9th - in conjunction with World Apostolate of Fatima (Ireland), the Pontifical Marian Academy, the Marian Institute and the Mariological Society of Ireland. This two day event will explore in detail the events of Fatima, its message to today's world and its call. In the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly. See poster in Church Porch.

British Red Cross Volunteers. Can you spare 1 hour a week or more? Would you like to help the Red Cross care for people in your local community? We are looking for volunteers for our wheelchair load service and volunteer drivers to help with deliveries and collections. No experience necessary. Full training provided and volunteer expenses reimbursed. Contact David Moore on 028 9073 5380 / 07841727043.

Please pray for Monsignor Alan McGuekin SJ, who will be ordained Bishop of Raphoe, in St Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny, on Sunday 9th August at 3pm. (Ticket only.)

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.