

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 27 AUGUST 2017
Year A | Issue 40

WHO IS JESUS FOR ME?

Peter gave an inspired response when Jesus asked him "Who do you say I am?" He replied: "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." It was a moment of inspiration. What he said was true but his future behaviour would show he did not fully understand what he had said. He would learn who Jesus was for him through embarrassing misunderstandings, impulsive overstatements of loyalty, and cowardly betrayal on his part, followed by

incredible acceptance, forgiveness and awesome expressions of trust by Jesus. His lived relationship with Jesus would teach him what it meant to acclaim Jesus as the Christ.

This Gospel is an invitation to us to reflect on who Jesus is for us. We probably all start off with something like Peter's response to Jesus. This is true, but what does it mean to us? There are many other titles for Jesus in the Bible, and possibly they have meant

Today's Readings



Isaiah 22:19-23
Psalm 137:1-3.6.8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Next Sunday's Readings



Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalm 62:2-6.8-9
Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27

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more to us at different times. An early favourite of mine was "Emmanuel", a name which means God is with us. The idea of God being close was reassuring. Jesus puts a human face on God and reminds us that God is with us on life's journey.

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full"

Jesus' assertion that those who seek to do God's will "are brother and sister and mother to me" (Mark 3:35) provided another attractive title for Jesus, Jesus as a brother, a fellow pilgrim on this earth, one who could understand the human journey and empathise with us, because "we do not have a high priest who is unable to

sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15).

A favourite one-line quotation for many people is John 10:10 where Jesus says, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." Elsewhere Jesus describes himself as "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). In so many different ways Jesus is the source of our life and vitality. In his proclamation of the Reign of God, God's wish that all of humanity be governed by the rule of love, he reveals to us our purpose in life. He invites us to make his project our own as we work with others to make our corner of the world a better place. He promised to be with us until the end of time and sends his Spirit to guide us and accompany us. We have his word as a guide to our steps and a light for our path, and he nourishes us for our journey with the bread of life. ■

– John Byrne, OSA

Reflection

What are your favourite titles for Jesus?

Lesson

Like Peter, our faith can be strengthened by faults and doubts along the road.

Prayer

"You are the Christ, the Son of God. Help me to understand what I say."

This Week (28 August–3 September)

- 28 **Mon** St Augustine, bishop
- 29 **Tue** The Beheading of John the Baptist
- 30 **Wed** St Fiacre, monk; St Felix, bishop
- 31 **Thur** St Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop
- 1 **Fri** St Giles, abbot
- 2 **Sat** St William of Roskilde, bishop
- 3 **Sun** TWENTY-SECOND 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)



21st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 16:13-20

1. This marks a turning point in the life of Jesus, and of the disciples. It is the first time that his disciples recognise him as the Messiah. Recall turning points in your own life when you came to some deeper understanding of who Jesus is.

2. 'Who do you say that I am?' This is possibly the most important question that Jesus puts to us. In your heart of hearts, how do you answer this question?

3. Jesus praises Peter for his faith and comments that this was not his own doing but a gift of God. Perhaps there have been times when you have been more than usually conscious that faith is a gift. Be thankful for the gift you have received.

4. These are troubled times for the Church and the promise of Jesus that 'the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it' are an encouragement. What helps you to draw strength from this promise of Jesus? What signs of hope do you see in the Church today?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbayneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Sr Celestine Clifford

Anniversaries: Letty Murray, Neil Watson, Dan Gallagher, Robert (Bobbie) McParland, Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Carol McGreevy (Sat 2nd Sept at 6:30pm), Thomas & Isobel McGiffin (Sun 3rd at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 27th August

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 3rd September

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Margaret Sheppard

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Cathedral Fund £422.20, Weekly £328.99, Monthly Stipend £15, (Trócaire Emergency appeal—Total £1079.42), Shrines £110.97. **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.

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 MIM, or Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel: 02890 320482 Email: administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com. SEE POSTER IN THE CHURCH 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 bcgcsmoth.eventbrite.co.uk, email bcgcsmoth@gmail.com or call 07377 098094. See poster in porch.

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 todays 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.

Grandparents National Annual Pilgrimage - 10th September 2017, Knock Shrine at 2.30pm. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Eamon Martin - Ballina School Choir - Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'. See poster in the Porch.

St Bernard's Parish, Glengormley: Cemetery Sunday, Carnmoney shall be on Sunday, 3rd September 2017 at 2.30pm with Solemn Requiem Mass in St Bernard's Church, 165 Antrim Rd, Glengormley BT36 7QR for all the deceased, followed by blessing of the graves at Carnmoney Cemetery. Priests will be on hand, as usual, to assist with the blessings. (Some people choose to bless the graves before Requiem Mass).

4th Diocesan Faith and Life Convention. Bishop Treanor invites you to attend our fourth Faith and Life Convention on Saturday 30th September 2017 in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, Belfast beginning at 10am.

This year we are delighted to welcome Cardinal Kevin Farrell as our keynote speaker. He will speak to us on the theme: Faith in the Family.

In the afternoon each participant will have the opportunity to take part in two workshops from a range of twenty seven. The workshops fill up quickly so it's best to book now!

Perhaps the best part of the day is the pleasure of meeting up with a great crowd of committed people from all over the diocese and beyond!

Online booking is available at: www.faihandlifeconvention.org Booking forms are also available from the Sacristy. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Ageing with Grace: Drumalis, Larne - Saturday, 2 September 2017. Maria Garvey will lead Ageing with Grace, a retreat day at Drumalis, for people of any age committed to accepting themselves as they are, recognizing their innate beauty and rejoicing in every passing day. Maria has been a leader in education, health and social care, community and social enterprise for over 30 years as well as being an experienced retreat giver. The day will begin at 9:00 am with registration and end at 4:45 pm and costs £55 per person. For further information or to book a place(s), please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm). Details are also available on the Drumalis website -<http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

Precious Life: MASSIVE PRAYER RALLY FOR IRELAND - On Saturday 9th September at 1pm, join thousands of people gathering at Nutts Corner, Co. Antrim, to pray for the healing, restoration and transformation of our land. For more information, contact Precious Life on 028 9027 8484 or info@preciouslife.com

Viatores Cristi (VC): Always wanted to volunteer overseas? Want to do a course on global social injustice? Learn more at the Viatores Christi (VC) - Information & Recruitment Session in BELFAST on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at 7.30pm in St John's Parochial House, Falls Road, Belfast BT12 6EN OR Tel. 01 8689986 apply@viatoreschristi.com www.viatoreschristi.com ALL WELCOME!

PLEASE NOTE Because of a prior appointment, Mass on Friday 2nd September will be at 9:30am (including the Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Help). There will be no evening mass.

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.