

Parish Newsletter

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 12 August 2018
Cycle B | Issue 37

MEDICINE OR CURE?

I don't know how it came about that religion or church are often seen as telling people what NOT to do or be. If you take the time or trouble to read the scriptures, it couldn't be more positive. In the first reading, Elijah has had enough and wants his life to end. Both Paul in the second reading and Jesus in the Gospel have people murmuring. Jesus turns it around and wants to give people encouragement and to come in faith. God is the

initiator, the one who inspires us. He talks about the mystery of faith, "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me." It is perhaps our greatest loss in the 21st Century in Ireland – the loss of faith. In a world of infinite variety and choice, with all sorts of ways of connecting, "going to Mass" doesn't make the cut for quite a few people. If there is no faith, then all Mass serves is some socio-cultural role.

Today's Readings



1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 33:2-9
Ephesians 4:30-5:2
John 6:41-51

Next Sunday's Readings



Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 33:2-3.10-15
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Sometimes the noise of this world can be overwhelming and we get caught up in the murmuring and in our own faults and those of others. The call is to be a person not of complaint but a person who listens. In a culture that is more and more individualistic – the Eucharist constitutes a type of “antidote”.

Every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government, must ask themselves two questions: ‘Do I love my people in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?’ If you don’t ask those questions, your governance will not be good. *–Pope Francis*

Antidote it is – but not magic, for whether you are a believer or not, we all live with the premise that nothing

lasts forever ... or does it. We have all had wonderful days and experiences, which we know won’t last forever. Many people fear that with death all is ended and we end up in an abyss of nothing. But Jesus came to dissolve that fear, to offer us an amazing promise ... “I am the bread of life.” In the past, the Eucharist was defined as a “medicine” and as a “cure”. A medicine for immortality and a cure for death. A medicine that we can take any time and the more we take this medicine, the less we will doubt or fear and the more we will grasp and live each day fully. In many respects, the Eucharist is like a medicine that helps people regain an attachment to the truth and the common good. This is no hard cake or jug of water, after the first reading, on offer here – it is the very bread of life.

The Eucharist is like the “pulsing heart” that gives life and meaning to everything the Church does. ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

Ponder faith as hearing and learning from the Father without seeing the Father.

Lesson

It is learning from the Father, hearing Him, but never seeing Him. Only Jesus, the one from God, has seen the Father.

Prayer

Lord, anchor us in the hope that we have found so that we and all your children may be set free, and your name be praised here and everywhere. Amen.

This Week (13-19 August)

- 13 **Mon** Ss Pontian and Hyppolytus, martyrs
- 14 **Tue** St Maximilian Kolbe, martyr
- 15 **Wed** THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM
- 16 **Thur** St Stephen of Hungary
- 17 **Fri** Our Lady of Knock; St Clare of Montefalco
- 18 **Sat** St Helen
- 19 **Sun** TWENTIETH 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)



DUBLIN, IRELAND

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

21-26 AUGUST 2018

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time—Year B

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 6:41-51

1. Faith is reasonable but we cannot reason our way into faith. We have to be 'drawn by the Father'. We have to be 'taught by God'. What opens your mind and heart to God's message?
2. When we label others disparagingly, we close our minds to what they are saying. The Jews did this to Jesus. Have you ever had the experience of being surprised by the wisdom of another when you laid aside your prejudices about them to listen to what they were saying?
3. 'No one has ever seen the Father except the one who is from God'. As Jesus put a human face on God and God's love, so God's love today is mediated to us through one another. How have other people been sacraments of God's love for you? For whom have you been that kind of a sacrament?
4. The way in which Jesus became a source of life for us was by giving himself. It is when we truly give ourselves that we can be life-giving to one another. If we do not give of ourselves, what do we have to offer? How have you discovered the importance of self-giving, in yourself or in others?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Malachy McHugh (brother of Fr Anthony McHugh), Jack Riordan (brother of Dolores Mahony), Harry Grocott
 Anniversaries: Jean O'Connor, Dan Gallagher, Letty Murray, Fr Dan Meenagh, Bobby McParland, Philomena (Phyllis) Bennett, Ann Tibodeau, Jim & Celia McNally (Sat 11th Aug at 6:30pm), Vincent Crilly (Sat 18th Aug at 6:30pm), Brenda Gunn (Sun 19th Aug at 11:30am), Thomas & Isobel McGiffin (Tues 4th Sept at 9:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 12th August

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blancy
 Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
 Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 19th August

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen
 Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
 Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Stipend £484.32, Weekly Collection £66.30, Pastoral Services £3, Shrines £84.14.

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 in sacristy. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann.

St Anthony's Parish Pastoral Council. The new Parish Pastoral Plan to be launched this weekend in English and Polish. A copy of the Plan is available in the church porch. The Parish Pastoral Council committee will be officially installed later in the Summer/Autumn. Next meeting Wed 12th Sept at 7pm, in Pope John Paul II Room/SVP Room behind the church.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15th August is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times as follows:

Vigil (Tues 14th Aug) 7pm (English)
 Feast Day (Wed 15th Aug) 9:30am (English), 7pm (Polish).

St Anthony's 80th Anniversary: This year we celebrate 80 years since the first mass was celebrated in St Anthony's Church. Next meeting: Thurs 23rd August 2018 at 7:30pm in Pope John Paul II Room/SVP Room behind the church.

World Meeting of Families - Tickets and Registration. ALL TICKETS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED! — Those who have signed up to be transported to the Papal Mass in Phoenix Park from the South & East Belfast Pastoral Area: - tickets will be sent by email by the 10th August, to be printed off at home. Parishioners of St Anthony's will be transported by bus from St Malachy's Church, Alfred Street on the Sunday at 9am. Cost £20 per person payable to Fr McCann ASAP. An email reminder will be sent to all registered persons/groups this weekend.

World Meeting of families - Festival of Families in Croke Park, Saturday 25th August FURTHER UPDATE. Each parish will receive ten tickets for the Festival of Families in Croke Park, 6.30pm, Saturday 25th August. Each parish is requested to register the members of the family as soon as possible. As yet, in St Anthony's, a family of three has been allocated, so 7 tickets for another family or group of people is available. All adults attending the Festival of Families will need to bring photo ID. Please contact Fr McCann ASAP if your family are interested.

WMOF & Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux and parents: As part of the celebrations for the World Meeting of Families later this month the Relics of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux and her parents, Ss Louis and Zélie Martin, will visit the Cathedral on Monday 13th August from 11am until 8am on Tuesday morning. Among the programme of events, the Bishop will celebrate Mass at 7.30pm and Sister Elaine Kelly from the Sisters of Adoration will reflect on how her family life influenced her vocation at 9pm. There will be Night Prayer at 10pm. Confessions will be available (except during Mass) from 6pm until the Cathedral closes at 11pm. See poster in church porch.

This Is Palestine screening. Join Trócaire at the Féile an Phobail for the screening of 'This Is Palestine' on Tuesday 7th August at 7pm in St Mary's University College. This documentary follows Riverdance founder John McColgan on a journey through Gaza and the West Bank. There will be a discussion afterwards with John McColgan and Seán Farrell, Director of Trócaire's International Division. It is free and all are welcome.

The Challenge Of Pope Francis To The Church In Ireland. An evening with John L. Allen Jr on Thursday 16th August, 7:30pm St Brigid's Parish Centre, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast. Everyone welcome. Poster in Porch.

Lessons and Legacy of the Poor Clares in Belfast. An illustrated talk by Fr Martin Magill, author of *The Poor Clares in Belfast 1924-2012*. On Wednesday 29th August at 7pm in Holy Family Church, 226 Limestone Road, Belfast. Copies of the book will be on sale at £10. All welcome.

Voice of Hope Concert. Join us at Saint Peters Cathedral as All Lives Are Precious and their cross community celebration of Love Life and Happiness visits Saint Peter's on Friday, 14th September 2018 @ 7:30pm, as we for the first time, invite our communities to mark World Suicide Prevention Day with us. Headlining this event will be the spectacular Peter Corry and very special guests The Priests. In addition we are pleased to announce that present also on the night will be the Saint Peter's Schola Cantorum, Saint Peter's Community Choir, Down and Connor Folk Choir and an ensemble choir of children and young people from local primary schools and youth clubs. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from Saint Peter's Cathedral Office, Immaculata Youth Club and online via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/voice-of-hope-belfast-tickets-46646393619>. Proceeds of this event will provide support and services to young people from all sections of the community in North and West Belfast on Mental Health Awareness, Suicide Prevention and Wellbeing. We look forward to welcoming you to this wonderful event - For further details contact Ronan on info@alpsni.org or 07801481013.