

# Parish Newsletter



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 26 August 2018  
Cycle B | Issue 39

## MAKING YOUR MIND UP

When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth? Well, the Pope has “come” for a start is all we can say today! Acres of newsprint will be devoted to the social changes in Ireland from 1979 to 2018. As I write this (May 2018), I can’t predict the attendance and mood of the RDS days, the Croke Park gathering of Saturday or the Phoenix Park Mass of this Sunday, but for a growing number, religious

affiliation is less important. The 2016 Census returns put RCs at 78 per cent – down from 84 per cent in 2011; church attendance has dropped drastically, with many people attending only on a few occasions every year. A priest colleague encourages young parents to “keep their hand in” as regards practice. Some remark that they’re too busy to pray or attend – a more accurate remark than at first realised. They really ARE too busy. But how is

### Today's Readings



Joshua 24:1-2.15-18  
Psalm 33:2-3.16-23  
Ephesians 5:21-32  
John 6:60-69

### Next Sunday's Readings



Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8  
Psalm 14:2-5  
James 1:17-18.21-22.27  
Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23

the storehouse of faith? When the topic of faith crops up in gatherings some people breezily state: "Oh, I talk to God." Queries as to when, where and how are met with a glare, stumbling words or a telling silence.

For all this, they reassure us that the faith is there, just not in visible practice at the present, but later ... Many such people have the comfort of living out of a store of faith, the rich faith-heritage memories left by parents and community. In some way, they have the language of belief that they can slip into and out of easily in life. But for their children? No such luxury of a full cupboard of remembered belief and practice is available, even the ritual of the church at compulsory funerals has people obviously placed in very unfamiliar terrain, not knowing when to stand/sit or the very prayers.

In the Gospel – as at Shechem in the First Reading – it is decision time. "What about you, do you want to go away too?" This provocative question is not only addressed to listeners in His time, but also to the believers and people of every age. Many should be shocked and find the teaching of Jesus hard. Some will try and change or adapt His word to the fashions of the times. Believing is not superficial and formal – it is something that takes up your whole life.

From Galilee of the 1st Century to Ireland in 2018. A time to hope that with Peter, and in this precious week just ended of the World Meeting of Families in the presence of the successor of Peter – Pope Francis – that we may respond from our own (at times) flickering faith with: "Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life."

– Tom Cox

## Reflection

Listen to your own feelings as you hear the conversation between Jesus and Peter.

## Lesson

The eternal life comes only from God's spirit not from human life.

## Prayer

Lord, you are the life-giving spirit and your words are life. Whom else can I follow? You have the message of eternal life. Amen.

## This Week (27 Aug–2 Sep)

- 27 Mon** St Monica
- 28 Tue** St Augustine, bishop and doctor
- 29 Wed** The Beheading of St John the Baptist
- 30 Thur** St Felix, bishop; St Fiacre, monk
- 31 Fri** St Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop
- 1 Sat** St Giles, abbot
- 2 Sun** 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Parish of St Anthony's is part of the Diocese of Down and Connor and operates in accordance with the Diocesan Privacy Notice, copies of which are available in porch.



# St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

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

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 6:60-69

- In this chapter Jesus teaches that the meaning of his life, and the meaning of all human life, lies in being prepared to give of oneself. Perhaps you can identify with what Pope Francis says: 'Those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others' (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, n.10).*
- 'This teaching is difficult', complained his hearers, including some of his own followers. Perhaps at times you also have wondered if you could go along with it. What helped you to overcome your resistance?*
- 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.' In the midst of your doubts perhaps you have held on to belief because, like Peter, Jesus offered you a more hopeful message than you could find anywhere else. How has the gospel message been more attractive to you than any other?*
- 'The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' Recall the words and phrases of Jesus that are words of life for you.*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

**Recently Deceased:** Jack Riordan (brother of Dolores Mahony), Harry Grocott, Loretta Owens (mother of Fr Peter Owens), Mary Emerson (mother of Fr Sean Emerson)  
**Anniversaries:** Bobby McParland, Philomena (Phyllis) Bennett, Ann Tibodeau, Jim & Celia McNally, Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Evelyn Mills & Frankie Mills (Sun 26th Aug at 11:30am), Thomas & Isobel McGiffin (Tues 4th Sept at 9:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 26th August  
READERS:

Vigil Mass: Shauna Mullen & Anthony Clifford  
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**  
Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 2nd September  
READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford  
Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Eileen Dunn

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**  
Vigil Mass: Ann Wright  
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections; Cathedral Fund £447.06, Weekly Collection £268.25, Stipend £8, Shrines £79.61.

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.

**World Meeting of Families Papal Mass** We pray for all who are travelling to Dublin this weekend for the Papal Mass on Sunday.

**Pope Francis in Ireland.** The Irish Catholic and Columba books will present a collaborative souvenir coffee-table book of Pope Francis' visit to Ireland and the events of the World Meeting of Families, with photos and events from around the country, €24.99 plus p&p. For more information 003531 687 4096, sales@columba.ie or visit www.columbapbooks.com.

**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.

### Itinerary of the Pope's Visit to Ireland as part of the World Meeting of Families:

#### Sunday, 26 August

- 08:40 - Departure by plane for Knock
- 09:45 - Arrival at Knock Shrine for visit to the Apparition Chapel and recitation of the Angelus
- 11:15 - Departure by plane for Dublin
- 12:30 - Lunch with the Papal Delegation
- 15:00 - Closing Papal Mass of the World Meeting of Families in Phoenix Park followed by a meeting with the Irish bishops
- 18:30 - Farewell ceremony at Dublin Airport
- 18:45 - Departure by plane for Rome
- 23:00 - Arrival in Rome.

**Various ways to watch the World Meeting of Families, Festival Families and the Papal Mass in Phoenix Park:** The following media companies can be accessed to view the World Meeting of Families:  
www.rte.ie www.shalomworldtv.org www.icatholic.ie www.u.tv.  
www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland. As well as local television channel coverage.

**Please note that the Papal Mass will be aired in the new Holy Rosary Parish Centre on Sunday 26th August, starting from 2pm. All most welcome.**

**Irish Catholic Newspaper.** 5 extra copies of the newspaper for Aug 23rd and Aug 30th will be available in the Church porch the following Sundays.

**First Saturdays Devotion of Reparation** as requested by Our Lady of Fatima will take place in the Church of Christ the Redeemer, Lagmore, Belfast, BT17 0TG on Saturday 1st September: Sacrament of Reconciliation from 8.30am; Rosary at 8.45am; Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary at 9.10am (for fifteen minutes) Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9.30am.

**Annual Belfast Pioneer Mass** will take place on Tuesday 18th September 2018 in St. Malachy's Church, Alfred St. Belfast at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments afterwards. Anyone wishing to be presented with emblems/ certificates please contact Pat 9262 9959, Ian 9061 6601, Josephine 9061 7116, Roisin 9064 6957.

**Christian Partnership Survey.** Think tank Demos, working with the Good Faith Partnership, are doing a research project about church social action. Many churches are doing extensive community work for social purpose - from food banks, to youth clubs, to financial advice and many other things. For these projects, they often work with non-Christian organisations, such as local authorities, businesses, charities or schools. We are collecting responses from churches through this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QJ6P2DM>. It should take about 10-15 minutes to complete.

**Voice of Hope Concert** 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. Special guests, Peter Corry and The Priests, and 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. Contact Ronan info@alpsni.org or 07801481013.

**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.