

Parish Newsletter

19th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Cycle C

11 AUGUST 2019
Issue 37



SEIZE THE MOMENT

You'll be reading this in the middle of the summer. I'm writing it in mid winter. I've just come back from a walk that I had hesitated to start. The temperature is just above freezing and I was very cosy in my heated room.

The blue sky enticed me out and I had a blessed half hour in a local park. The air was still, the sun bright in the sky and spring flowers were appearing.

Children were playing, adults walking or jogging. Mallards and moorhens were in the pond while a heron stood majestically at the edge. I returned to my car feeling refreshed, and glad that I had not given in to my inclination to stay indoors.

'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.' The kingdom God offers us is a kingdom of life,

Today's Readings



Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalm 32:1, 12, 18-20, 22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

Next Sunday's Readings



Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalm 39:2-4, 18
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

love, creativity and beauty. God offers it. But do we choose to accept the gift? Each day we have many choices. We can choose to be alive, or drift on automatic pilot. We can welcome the day as an opportunity to love, or to live just for ourselves. We can use a day to develop our creativity, or stagnate. We can open our eyes to see God's beauty reflected in the world around us or, as one writer put it, 'we can continue not to see when even the common thornbush is aflame with God's glory.'

There is an urgency in the words of Jesus when he urges his hearers to be ready for action. It is as though he wanted to take people by the shoulders and shake them lest they miss the opportunity for a fuller life. When have you found that being alert enabled you to grasp a moment of opportunity that you might easily have missed, e.g. when a child or a friend gives a hint that they would like to talk and a very

meaningful conversation ensues because you were prepared to listen?

Today's gospel is often understood as a warning to be prepared for the moment of death. But the coming of the Lord is not just at the end of our life. The Lord comes to us with graces and opportunities each day of our lives. Are we always alert to the opportunities that come our way, these moments of grace? The teaching in today's gospel is not just about being prepared for the moment of death. It is about being prepared for the coming of God into our lives today.

I seized the chance of a walk in the park today. It changed my day for the better.

— John Byrne, OSA

I have lived to thank God that not all my prayers have been answered.

— Jean Ingelow



Reflection

Don't let this day just happen. Think ahead and choose how you would like to use this day.



Lesson

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.' Be alert for moments of grace that the God of surprises may send you.



Prayer

'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.'



This Week (12-18 August)

- 12 Mon** St Eusebius of Milan, bishop
- 13 Tue** Ss Pontian and Hippolytus, martyrs
- 14 Wed** St Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr
- 15 Thur** THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM
- 16 Fri** St Stephen of Hungary, holy man
- 17 Sat** Our Lady of Knock
- 18 Sun** 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthony@downandconnor.org

henrymccann@hotmail.com, Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk
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)



19th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEKING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 12: 32-48

1. The opening verses of this gospel reading invite us to ask ourselves what we see as our purpose in life. What are our priorities? Is our heart set on material progress and advance, or do we have other priorities? What has helped you to appreciate that there is more to your life than earthly possessions and success?
2. At times one can sense in Jesus an urgency, as if he wanted to shake people and wake them up to take his words seriously. The parable has that tone: 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.' When have you found that being alert enabled you to grasp a moment of opportunity that you might easily have missed? Perhaps when a child or friend gave a hint that they would like to talk, and a very meaningful conversation ensued?
3. Another consideration that adds to the sense of urgency in the words of Jesus is that we only have one life, and we do not know how long it will last. So Jesus calls us on us to live in the now and to treasure our time. Sometimes we drift aimlessly through a day, and on other occasions use a day purposefully. What difference does that make, if any, to how you experience the day?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbhyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Canon Bernard Magee PE CC, Eileen Ferguson, Kyle Bradshaw, Fr Philip Dunlea CSSR, Philomena Green, James McKeown, Brother Joseph Skehan, OCSO (Our Lady of Bethlehem Cistercian Abbey, Portlengone)

Anniversaries: Stuart Wright, James McGrillen, Jean O'Connor, Elizabeth, Paul and Vince Spiers, Dan Gallagher, Bobby McParland, Mick Gibney, Thomas & Isobel McGiffin (Sun 11th Aug at 11:30am), Vincent Crilly (Sat 17th August at 6:30pm), Brenda Gunn (Sun 18th at 11:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 11th Aug

READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 18th Aug

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis Mc Grillen

Morning Mass: Sarah Corcadden & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corcadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £602.70, Shrines £73.46

Food Bank. It is suggested that since a lot of the recipients are of Asian extraction, that less pasta should be donated and more rice donated.

Collection for Fr Krzysztof Sunda SChr. Fr Krzysztof will be saying his last masses at St Anthony's on Sunday 1st September, before taking up his new placement in Boston, Lincolnshire. He will be replaced by Fr Włodzimierz Dzduch SChr. (Fr Vlad). There are collection envelopes available in the porch for a collection to be taken up before August 18th. I trust you will help show our appreciation for his work here.

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thurs 15th August. Mass times: 9.30am Mass in English, 7pm Mass in Polish

Free Event, promoted by Shalom World: Jesus Heals. Holy Mass, Preaching, Healing Adoration. Celebrant Fr Jilto George CMI, Shalom Director of Retreats. 6.30pm - 9.30pm, Mon 12th August - St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Whitehouse, 305 Shore Road, Belfast, BT37 9RY. Programme includes: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Holy Mass, Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, Individual Anointing of Holy Oil, Finishing with Eucharistic Blessing. You are invited to join

us at this Mass and experience Jesus' healing touch for the body, mind and soul! Contact Jacinta 07756 225114, or Roshni 07737 230680.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage, Sunday 8th September 2019, Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Knock, Co Mayo. Chief Celebrants: Bishop Kevin Doran—Bishop of Elphin and Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo—Apostolic Nuncio. Choir & Musicians: Combined Choirs of Knock Parish, Reflection by: Catherine Wiley—Founder of the CGA, Special Guests: Dana, sings 'Our Lady of Knock', Cathal Gavin, sings 'Voice of an Angel', Children's Prayer Appeal. 2.30pm—Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with Music and Song. 3.00pm—Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Rosary. For further information visit: info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com. www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Priory Institute 2019 Online Summer School. Paul: The Radical Gospel. A two-week online course will begin again on 12th August. One lecture per day. Cost 80. To enrol today email enquiries@prioryinstitute.com, or see www.prioryinstitute.com, or phone +3531 4048124.

Marie Curie Hospice Belfast invites you to attend our Summer Fete, 1a Kensington Road, Belfast, BT5 6NF, Sunday 18th August 2019, 12noon—4pm. Refreshments, Nurses Cake stand, face-painting, Tombola Stalls, Crafts.

Mary's Meals Annual Walk in support of Mary's Meals, 7th August—15th August, walking across Ireland and finishing in Knock. Suzanne and Dessie Hopkins, and Margaret Sheppard are joining in this Sponsored Walk and are seeking sponsorships and volunteers along the walk to give our flyers. Please support them. Sponsorship sheets are found in the sacristy and for further information contact Suzanne 07825449133

The Legion of Mary Annual Young Adult Catholic Conference takes place in All Hallows College, Dublin on Saturday August 31st and Sunday September 1st 2019. This is a fantastic weekend packed full of interesting events for young Catholics. Prices range from €25-€50, accommodation also available. For further details visit our website <http://www.legionofmary-deusetpatria.com/> or contact Lucy 087 9959803.

Faith and Life Convention. Online bookings for this year's Faith and Life Convention are now open. We hope that you will be able to us on Saturday 28th September 2019. This year our theme for the convention is Faith in a Better World and our Keynote Speaker will be Michel Camdessus. Michel is the former director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a member of the Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace. We look forward to welcoming Michel and his wife Brigitte to Belfast. Our keynote speech will be followed by a panel discussion where together we can reflect on the variety of issues that we face in society today. Dr Nicola Brady, from the Irish Council of Churches will moderate our panel and we can look forward to responses from Dymphna Mallon (Laity Co-ordinator for SMA), Prof Thomas Bremer, (University of Münster, Germany) and Mrs Eileen Gallagher (Clogher Diocese and Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs). The highlight of the day for many people is the variety of workshops on offer and this year we have an impressive line-up of local and international speakers. Early booking is a great support for the administration of the event. Entering the discount code early bird will give you a £5 discount (available until 12th August). See www.faithandlifeconvention.org.

Vocations Prayer Card featuring the heroic biographies of two priests of our diocese, Fr Hugh Mullian and Fr Noel Fitzpatrick, who gave their lives consoling and administering the sacraments to dying parishioners, during the difficult times of "the Troubles". Please take one home per family and keep praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

A Marriage Enrichment Weekend offers married couples of all ages in a good relationship, private time to rekindle the joy of their love. The next (residential) Weekends (Fri 8pm to Sun 4:30pm) will be held at the Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry from 13 - 15 Sep 2019 and at The Lake Hotel Killarney from 15 - 17 Nov 2019. For info. and to book, visit www.marriagecounter.ie or phone 087 784 0408 [ROI] or 0770 281 2321 [NI].

Could you foster? The Health & Social Care Trusts are seeking to recruit foster carers who enjoy being with, caring for and are able to support vulnerable children and young people from a range of ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural backgrounds. These are entering Northern Ireland fleeing danger and war, or have been victims of trafficking or exploitation, or that their parent or carer may have disappeared. We need to find these children a safe and supportive home environment where they can receive emotional and practical support. We want to help them integrate into local community life where they can make new friends and learn English. We also want to find homes where there is a current, or potential, understanding of their heritage, culture and religion. If you are interested in find out more, please contact the Regional Adoption and Fostering Service. Phone 0800 0720 137 or go online to www.adoptionandfostering.hscni.net.

Diocesan Clerical Changes, copies of the changes are available in the Porch

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.