

# Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 10 December 2017  
Year B | Issue 2

## MESSENGERS OF GOOD NEWS

Where would we be without messengers of good news? Think of what it would be like to have to discover everything for ourselves. How many books have you read on the recommendation of another person? You probably go to some favourite shop because someone else initially recommended it to you. The services of a professional are often engaged on the advice of another.

When you look back on some of the more successful developments in your

life, is it not true that many of these started with something you heard or read from another person? You heard a person talking about how wonderful was the college he or she attended. You heard someone else describe how fulfilling s/he found a job. You were intrigued by the enjoyment another person got from a hobby. It is often other people who arouse our interest in something that eventually becomes a part of our life and routine.

We owe much to other people and it

### Today's Readings



Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11  
Psalm 84:9-14  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8

### Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11  
Psalm: Luke 1:46-54  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8.19-28

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can be good for us to think back and give thanks for the people who have been good-news messengers to us. And as we have been the beneficiaries of these people we also have been messengers to others. Perhaps you can remember people who have benefited from your advice or suggestion.

**People who preach religion too readily are often not the most effective messengers of the Good News today.**

Whenever you have done this you have been a person who "prepared the way". It's unlikely that you have done this in the attention-grabbing way of John the Baptist and it is probable that

### Reflection

When were you surprised by the positive impact you had on another person?

### Lesson

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news" Rom 10:15.

### Prayer

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

the good news most of us convey to others has little to do with Jesus Christ. But why?

People who preach religion too readily are often not the most effective messengers of the Good News today. It has been said that today's world needs witnesses more than preachers. In that sense we can all be messengers of the Gospel good news. We are such when others see in us people for whom faith in Jesus is important because it gives us a sense of our own worth, a positive outlook on life, meaning and purpose to our lives, and a commitment to the future of the world. Our faith prompts us to be disciples of Jesus in his project to promote the reign of God on this earth.

Each one of us is capable of being a force for good in the environment in which we live. We can be messengers of Good News. ■

– John Byrne

### This Week (11–17 December)

- 11 Mon** St Damasus I, pope
- 12 Tue** Our Lady of Guadalupe; St Finian, bishop
- 13 Wed** St Lucy, virgin and martyr
- 14 Thur** St John of the Cross, priest and doctor
- 15 Fri** St Mary di Rosa
- 16 Sat** St Adelaide, holy woman
- 17 Sun** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT





# 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)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:1-8

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord by alerting you to ways in which you could improve your life? To whom have you been such a messenger?

2. John calls the people to repentance (i.e. a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart, and the change led to new life for you?

3. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart – write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

John Byrne OSA. Email [jpbryneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jpbryneosa@gmail.com)

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Katie Shinn (niece of Kay Dunn), Monica Cusack, Canon Hugh Starkey,

Anniversaries: Terence & Sarah McCartan, Sally Watson, Nancy Grogan, Peter Hughes, Patrick Joseph Greenan, Bro. Peter Gallagher, Johnny Kelly, Mark Mahoney (Sat 9th Dec at 6:30pm), Marie Matthews (Sun 10th Dec at 11:30am), Rose Meenagh (Sun 17th Dec at 11:30am), John Higney (Sun 31st Dec at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 10th December

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Shauna Mullen  
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Eileen Dunn

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 17th December

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen  
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Margaret Woods

EUCARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £778.23, Weekly Collection £90, Bishop's Commissions £26, Propagation of Faith £5, Shrines £65.51. 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have missed sending in your collection envelope donations, One Envelope Per Collection (eg Weekly or Monthly) will suffice. For example there is no need to put weekly envelopes inside each other with your donation. Discard the missed envelope(s) and place your total donation into ONE envelope. Thank you. **PLEASE NOTE ALSO:** The Old £1 coin will no longer be accepted in collection envelopes or candelabra/shrines

Advent Stations of Confessions available in St Anthony's after 6.30pm mass from next week (Sat 2nd December) from 7.30pm-8pm. Why not prepare early before the Penitential Services, in preparation for Christmas.

#### Advent Penitential Services:

The Advent Penitential Services in our Pastoral Community are as follows

Next Sunday 17th December St Matthew's at 4.00pm

Next Sunday 17th December, St Brigid's at 4.00pm

Next Monday 18th December, Holy Rosary at 7.30pm

Next Wednesday 20th December, St Bernadette's at 7.30pm

Next Thursday 21st December at Carryduff parish at 7.30pm

To help parishioners prepare for the Sacrament, the Penitential Service liturgy that will be used, is available for you to pick up in the church porch. (pink sheet)

Advent at Clonard Monastery. You are invited to join us in Clonard Monastery to celebrate the beautiful season of Advent. Let's gather together on four consecutive

Tuesdays (28 Nov, 5 Dec, 12 Dec and 19 Dec) in the conference room of Clonard Monastery from 7.30-8.30pm. Kindly, sign up at Clonard reception, or email [reception@clonard.com](mailto:reception@clonard.com), or phone 028 9044 5950.

**SVP St Bernadette's Conference:** Stephen Murphy will speak after Holy Communion about the work of the local Saint Vincent de Paul. He will give an estimate of contributions by St. Anthony's and what work we have been doing in this area of Belfast over the year.

**Saintfield & Carrickmannon Parish: Liam Lawton Concert - O Holy Night,** Monday 18th December 2017 in Aid of Marie Cure and the N. I Hospice. Tickets contact: 07788435797 or 07919332490.

**Mary's Meals at Christmas. Raffle:** Prizes galore in our raffle Hampers, Toiletries, Candles Tickets £1 – sold in porch. Give a Mary's Meal Gift card Prices from £5 to £30. Join us for Tea and mince pies on Sunday 17th December after mass to celebrate the good work achieved by all of you on behalf of Mary's Meals this year. See poster in porch.

**Mary's Meals Newsletter** now available in Church Porch.

**An Evening of Festive Favourites** at Drumalis, Friday, 22 December at 7.00 pm. The evening will include seasonal favourites, old and new, performed by Voices Chamber Choir under the direction of Loreto McAuley. On arrival, there will be a festive reception with entertainment commencing at 7.30 pm. A two-course supper will be served during the interval. The cost for the evening is £25 per person and admission is by pre-paid ticket only. For further information, please contact Drumalis during office hours (Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm) – telephone 028 2827 2196/028 2827 6455.

St Colmille's Ballyhackamore are presenting an Advent DVD programme for the over sixties, 'Beloved Disciple', in the Iona Room, Parochial Hall on four Friday mornings, continues this Friday 16th Dec at 10.00am, starting with refreshments. All are welcome.

**Iona Institute: Invitation to a talk: 'Marriage and family in Northern Ireland'.** Speaker: David Quinn, on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, in the Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road, Belfast at 8pm. Admission: Free. If you would like to attend please email [tharkin@ionainstitute.ie](mailto:tharkin@ionainstitute.ie).

**Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages 2018:** 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com).

**The World Meeting of Families—The Amoris Programme – 'Let's Talk Family'.** Volunteers from each parish who would be willing to lead six group discussions during Lent are desirable. Ideally the volunteers should have some previous experience of leading group discussions with adults. Training of the group leaders, consisting of two evening sessions, will take place at three venues across the diocese. Trainee leaders can attend training sessions at whichever venue suits them. Training of Group Leaders 2018:

1. All Saints Parish Centre, Ballymena, 4 Broughshane Road, BT43 7DX. Two training sessions – Wednesday 10th and 17th January, 7-9.30pm.

2. St. Malachy's Parish Centre, 24 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EN. Two training sessions – Thursday 11th and 18th January, 7-9.30pm.

3. St. Michael's Parish Centre, 99 Irish Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6BS. Two training sessions – Wednesday 24th January and 7th February, 7-9.30pm.

If you are interested please give your names to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

**Carols by Candlelight with The Priory Singers,** St. Bernadette's Church, Rosetta Road, Friday 15th December, 2017 at 8.00 pm. Director of Music - Robert Thompson. Organist - Phillip Elliott. Admission Free. Retiring Collection for St. Bernadette's Church Restoration Fund.

**Living Youth – World Meeting of Families Volunteering.** Living Youth is leading a Youth Group from the Diocese of Down & Connor to Dublin this coming summer to volunteer at the World Meeting of Families Congress and to attend the Papal Mass. The trip will be from 22nd – 26th August 2018 and will be for those aged 16 – 25. The trip will cost £100 per person. We expect places to fill quickly so to register your interest please email Living Youth @ [info@livingyouthni.org](mailto:info@livingyouthni.org) with your name, contact number, parish and d.o.b or contact us directly on 02890 232 432.

**Joseph's Centre Day Opportunities Programme Christmas Celebration,** Thurs 14th December 9.30-16.00. Join us for a festive day of fun. Festive Activities free of Charge! This is an opportunity to meet new people, try new things and have some fun! Transport to and from home is available on request. Tea, coffee and scones on arrival. Full 3 course lunch, tea and biscuits on departure. Places are limited therefore booking is essential, first come first served. To book your place contact Fr Patrick Devlin, Phone 028 90713401, [stdep@btinternet.com](mailto:stdep@btinternet.com). 321 Grosvenor Road, Belfast.

**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.