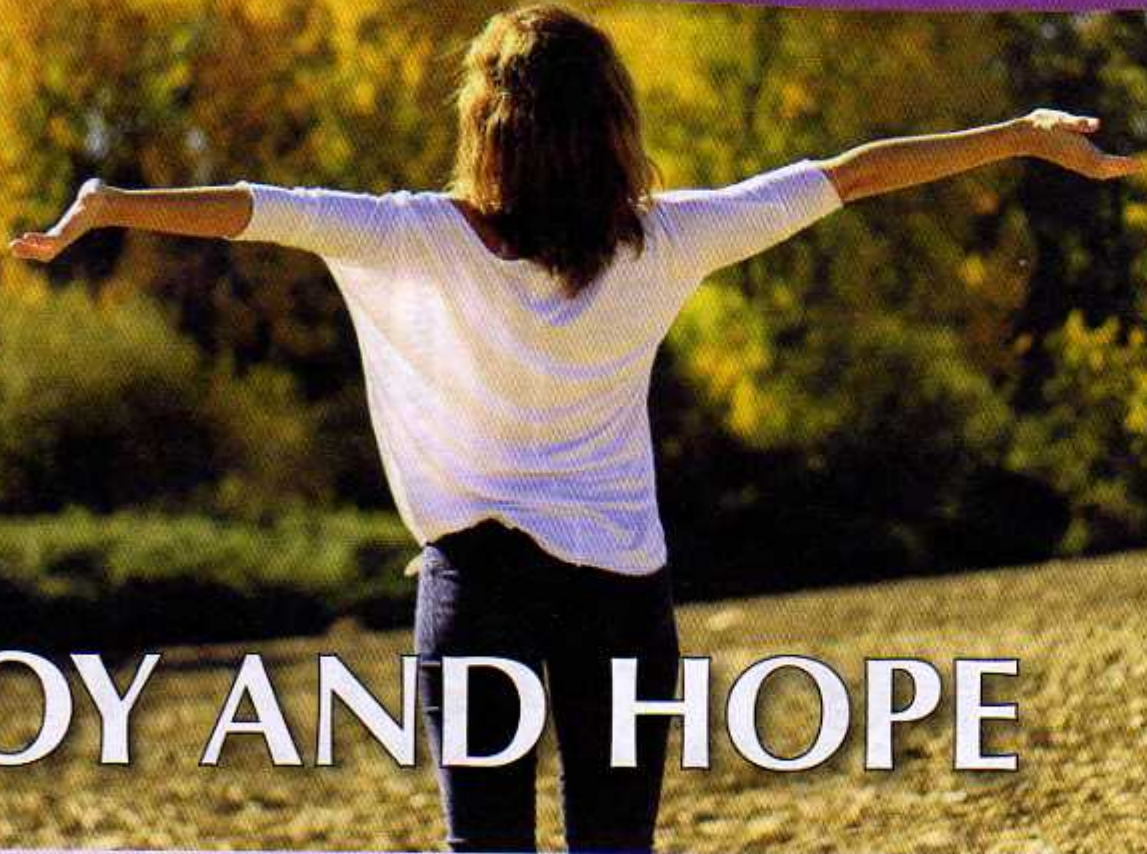


Parish Newsletter



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 16 December 2018
Cycle C | Issue 03



JOY AND HOPE

Joy has been a keyword in the teaching of Pope Francis. The very word 'Joy', or 'Gaudium' in Latin, has appeared in the official title of two documents in his Papacy. Appropriately today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is sometimes called 'Rejoice Sunday' or 'Gaudete Sunday'. Whatever about the shortening of the daylight coming to an end this coming week – there is a lengthening focus on joy. We all strive

to be happy, but what makes for true happiness? If we were to listen to the world the search for joy would involve headlong rushing into the commercial aspect of the 'Season'.

What have you got when you've lost everything? I hope, for you the answer is 'people'. More and more people that we know have quietly re-evaluated how they 'do' Christmas. They have

Today's Readings



Zephaniah 3:14-18
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Next Sunday's Readings



Micah 5:1-4
Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-44

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made subtle little changes that put people, not commodity acquisition, first. What makes a 'good' Christmas is as varied as people are.

Pope Francis has argued, in his most recent letter on the universal call to holiness, that true holiness lies in a deep engagement with life.

The Irish tendency is to say, almost pityingly, of a person that they are 'holy'. We seem to view holiness as divorced from life. But holiness and wholeness are related. It means being fully engaged with the business of life – not retreating from it. Christmas is a season of the heart above all – and there is a danger, as President Higgins remarked in last August that 'the coldness of thought has killed the music of the heart'. We have never

lived in such an information-saturated society and we talk about forming and opening minds. But we also need to form hearts.

Maybe as homework, we need to ask what am I doing to bring Joy, not pain, to those I love and who share this common home, our planet Earth with me? What can I give thanks for? There is always something lacking and yet there is sufficient for the day for each of us.

Christmas is almost upon us. Pray and work for the joy that Christ's coming brings us, for the joy that heals a wounded soul and gives strength, for the joy that brings us hope, that the lonely pine for and the grieving dare hope to know again, for the joy that mends what is broken, that we can share with others for it is what every human person needs.

– Tom Cox

Reflection

What am I doing to bring Joy, not pain, to those I love and who share this common home, our planet Earth, with me?

Lesson

Joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit that is one of the marks of being a faithful Christian.

Prayer

Lord, let me learn to place myself in your hands, to be guided by the spirit, so that I will be a faithful witness to you.

This Week (17-23 December)

- 17 **Mon** St Lazarus
- 18 **Tue** St Flannan, bishop
- 19 **Wed** St Anastasius I, pope
- 20 **Thur** St Eugene; St Fachanan, bishop
- 21 **Fri** St Peter Canisius, priest and doctor
- 22 **Sat** St Flavianus
- 23 **Sun** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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)
3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org. stanthonys@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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—Year C GAUDETE (REJOICING) SUNDAY

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 3:10-18

1. 'What should we do?' The common thread in John's answers was to encourage his questioners to be other-centred rather than self-centred, each in the context of their own circumstances. In your experience, what difference has it made for you when you changed your attitude in this way?

2. John told the people in a direct and honest way what they should do. Perhaps you have had friends who did not beat about the bush but have told you honestly what they thought about your behaviour when you asked them? In gratitude, recall such friends.

3. The humility of John comes out in this passage, happy to acknowledge that he only had a minor role to play in relation to the Messiah. At the same time he was enthused by his mission to 'proclaim the good news to the people'. What difference has it made for you when you were able to see the good in yourself, and use your gifts without having to score by portraying yourself as greater than someone else?

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Susan Casey (aunt of Suzanne Hopkins), Jeremiah Sheehan (father of Fr Diarmuid Sheehan), John Gantley (father of David Gantley—Diocesan Property Manager), Fr Christopher Nellis

Anniversaries: Vincent & Ethna Heaney, Brother Peter Gallagher, Mark Mahoney, Peter Hughes, Marie Matthews, Minnie Tanney (Sat 15th Dec at 6:30pm), Patrick Joseph Greenan (Sun 16th Dec at 11:30am), John O'Connor (Thurs 27th December at 9:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 16th December

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 23rd December

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

New Rotas are available in the Sacristy

St Paul Missals for Readers available in the sacristy

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £715.16, Monthly Stipend £47, Shrines £115.21.

Mary's Meals - Christmas Cake Sale & Nearly New items. This Sunday 16th December after 11:30 mass in front porch of church.

Trócaire Christmas Appeal: 'Do not let the downtrodden retreat in confusion, give the poor and needy cause to praise your name.' Psalm 74:21. Millions of people have had to flee conflict in South Sudan and Yemen. In one area alone in northern Uganda 33,000 mainly women and children from South Sudan have taken refuge. They have witnessed and experienced the worst kind of violence and have arrived traumatised and broken. Trócaire's Christmas Appeal will help these people and many others rebuild their lives. Information packets in the church porch or visit www.trocaire.org to find out more.

South & East Belfast Pastoral Community Advent Penitential Services: An Examination of Conscience sheet (pink) is available in the porch to help prepare for the Penitential Services organised as follows:

Holy Rosary:	Monday: 17.12.18	7.30pm
St. Bernadette's	Wednesday 19.12.18	7.30pm.
Drumbo/Carryduff.	Thursday 20.12.18.	7.30pm.
St. Brigid's	Sunday: 23.12.18	4pm.

South & East Belfast Pastoral Community—The Times of Christmas Masses: The times of Christmas Masses is available on a Poster in the Church Porch.

Times of Masses in St Anthony's: Christmas vigil Mon 24th 7pm. Christmas day 11:30am. Polish Masses Christmas day: 9:30am & 1pm.

The Live Crib. Visit the Live Christmas Crib at St Mary's Grotto, opening Thursday, 13 December 2018 until Sunday, 6 January 2019. Come along and meet Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and the Three wise men. This year animals are kindly provided by the Irish Donkey association and there will be a baby donkey in the crib this year. Carol singers daily at 2 pm. and 5 pm. Proceeds to the Mill Hill Missionaries working in Sudan.

Marriage Encounter: Are You Making Wedding Plans? Prepare for your future married life at a Catholic Engaged Encounter Course. 23-24 March 2019 in Our Lady and St. Patrick's Parish Centre, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. For details/booking: marriageencounter.ie or 028 27638512.

NURSES! The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is currently seeking volunteers to join our nursing team to care for our pilgrims who will stay at the Accueil Notre Dame, during our 2019 Pilgrimage (10-15 July.) You will need to be a registered nurse, active on the NMC live register - newly registered nurses are welcome. For more information or to register your interest please email us to lourdes@downandconnor.org with your contact details and we will get back to you.

Invitation for Pastoral Councils to the Four Corners Prayer Breakfast. You are cordially invited to our Prayer Breakfast to launch the seventh annual 4 Corners Festival on Friday January 11, 2019 at 8 am in Resurrection Hall, Holy Family Parish Centre, 120 Cavehill Road, Belfast BT15 5BU. This time the Festival will run from Wednesday January 30 - Sunday February 10 and its theme is 'Scandalous Forgiveness'. The keynote speaker will be Richard Moore from Derry/Londonderry, the inspirational founder of 'Children in Crossfire', the charity which works to change the prospects for children caught up in poverty and injustice. Doors will open at 7.45 am and the Prayer Breakfast begins at 8 am and will run for an hour until 9 am during which we will give you a flavour of the Festival's exciting programme of events and distribute the brochure. We would be grateful if you could RSVP to info@4cornersfestival.com by Wednesday December 12th.

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April—October 2019. 7 Nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. Book any flight—any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further information and book the dates that suit you. Tel 003531 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com. www.med-irishcentre.com. See poster in the porch.

St Louise's Comprehensive College Open Night—Thursday 10th January 2019. Principal's address at 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Step into a Bright Future. For more information contact St Louise's Comprehensive College, 468 Falls Road, Belfast, BT12 6EN. Tel 028 90325631, Fax 028 90269600. Email info@stlouises.belfast.ni.sch.uk, www.stlouises.org.uk. See poster in the church 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.