

Parish Newsletter

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH
Cycle C

30 December 2018
Issue 05

THE STORY OF OUR LIFE



A New Year is the perfect time for reflection. In the not too distant past many people kept personal diaries which stayed 'personal' – now we seem to just express thoughts on social media publicly not privately! But whether we record it or not, all year long we store up our experiences. This turning point of a year is a good time to reflect on them in prayer. To look back on the year just ending and ask

of yourself – what are you proud of? What are you sorry for? How did you encounter the Lord anew? How did you allow yourself to be changed – or how did you block change for yourself or others, for better and for worse?

It's also a hinge-point weekend. A door will open into a new year. As we look to the new year we might ask ourselves – what do we need? What do

Today's Readings



1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Psalm 83:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Luke 2:41-52

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

we hope for? What do we need to work on? It's not just about physique but also our psyche, not about slendering what is there physically but tending to our very spirit. Every year we need to reflect on how we can grow in wisdom and stature and favour with God and people, as today's Gospel puts it.

Even if you've had your fill of end-of-the-year lists you could ask yourself a few questions to help make your own list:

- What was the happiest story of your life in the past year?
- What was the most spiritual story in your life in 2018? When were you most aware of God this past year?
- What was your most selfless story in

2018? How did you sacrifice for others?

- Any story of peace-making in your family circle this past year? Forgiveness is a two-way street, did you extend it and receive it?
- Digging deeper – your most selfish story of 2018, did you prosper at someone else's expense?

We could go on and ask about your saddest/most beautiful/unfinished stories of 2018. None of them will be likely to make the Sunday papers but they're probably a lot more personally helpful.

We all have a new year ahead of us, with wonderful new stories and people to add to our personal 'story'. I pray that yours will be filled with faith, hope and love for you and all whose paths will cross yours in 2019. Happy New Year!

– Tom Cox

Reflection

When was the last time you were able to have a dinner or celebration with your family to foster togetherness?

Lesson

An indispensable element of family life is the ability to pray together.

Prayer

Lord, grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and all the families in the world.

This Week (31 Dec–6 January)

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| 31 | Mon | St Sylvester I, pope |
| 1 | Tue | MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD |
| 2 | Wed | Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen |
| 3 | Thur | The Most Holy Name of Jesus |
| 4 | Fri | St Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious |
| 5 | Sat | St John Neumann, bishop |
| 6 | Sun | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD |



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



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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)

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 2:41-52

1. *Luke's skill as a storyteller comes through in the details of the story in a way that many people can identify with: the loss of a child, the frantic search, the seemingly offhand speech of the teenager. Let the drama of the story speak to you. Where do you find good news in it?*
2. *In Luke's Gospel this story serves to give a glimpse of the future greatness of Jesus, the teacher of his people. Sometimes we can look back over our own life, or the lives of others, and with hindsight can see in childhood or teenage years a glimpse of gifts and talents that were later to blossom. Where have you seen this?*
3. *'Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?' This seemingly insensitive reply by Jesus to Mary serves to highlight that in his life the mission given him by God would take precedence over family ties, painful though this would be. Perhaps you have known situations in your own life where there was pain for family members as you followed your own destiny? Where in the midst of the pain was the good news?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Peter Hughes, Marie Matthews, Minnie Tanney, Patrick Joseph Greenan, Jim McCann, Eddie & Eileen Doherty, Stuart Wright, John O'Connor (Thurs 27th December at 9:30am), Claire Kelly (Fri 1th January at 7pm).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 30th December

READERS:

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

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
 Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 6th January 2019

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Carmel Blaney
 Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
 Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

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 £820.46, Christmas Collection £1393.86, Shrines £97.70.

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.

Four Corners Festival the Festival runs from January 30 to February 10. The theme is Scandalous Forgiveness. The aim of the Festival is "to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all". The keynote speaker, Fr Gregory Boyle SJ, from Los Angeles, founder of Homeboys Industries, the largest gang intervention and rehabilitation programme in the world, at the Skainos Centre, Newtownards Road. Pope Francis pays tribute to him in the Pope's most recent book "Sharing - the Wisdom of Time" writing: "Greg speaks to us about the utter graciousness of God that frees us from the false ideas about him that get formed in our minds."

Morning Service from the Chapel of St Mary's University College, Belfast, Fr Boyle preaching.

New Irish Choir and Orchestra in a celebration of Outrageous Forgiveness at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

Canon David Porter, chief of staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr Nicola Brady, general secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, speaking at the concluding event of the festival at Clonard Monastery, Belfast. For more information visit Website : 4cornersfestival.com. Twitter @4cornersbelfast. Hashtag #4CORNERS2019. Facebook @4cornersfestival.

Down & Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima, 15th Aug 2019, 7 nights, led by Bishop Noel Treanor. £715 per person sharing. Pilgrimage directors, Fr Gerard McCloskey PP and Fr Sean Gilmore PP. For further details contact Joe Catney, 028 90714001 or 07776425631. or see poster in 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.

Down and Connor Sharing the Good News Newsletter available in the church porch.

Catholic Schools Week 2019. Catholic Schools Week will run from 27th January to 3rd February 2019. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools. The themes for the individual days very much describe the faith life of a Catholic school.

Wishing you every God's blessings for the New Year.

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.