

# Parish Newsletter



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 4 February 2018  
Year B | Issue 10



## IN BETWEEN SPACES

**T**here's a very big gap between the despair of Job in the First Reading and the frenetic scenes of healing in the Gospel in Capernaum sparked by the healing of Simon's mother-in-law.

It brought back to mind a time I spent with two African Bishops bringing them around to retired Irish Missionaries. One person they visited was terminally ill. The two prayed confidently for

healing – in stark contrast to my more nuanced prayer. At times I feel a bit like one of my predecessors who would check the weather forecast before he prayed for (what he called) “favourable” weather! I thought to myself – these two Bishops are right. God is the God of miracles and healing. But I think most of us inhabit a space between Job of the First Reading and the Gospel. Quietly hoping but steeling ourselves for disappointment.

### Today's Readings



Job 7:1-4,6-7  
Psalm 146:1-6  
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23  
Mark 1:29-39

### Next Sunday's Readings



Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46  
Psalm 31:1-2,5,11  
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1  
Mark 1:40-45

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Job of the First Reading is the man who has done well. But when the devil points out to God that his very prosperity is the reason Job is a believer – God permits Job to lose everything and everyone. Job’s “comforters” are sent, seeking to convince Job that he must have done something wrong to “deserve this” (he didn’t). We’ve all heard that one, or said it to ourselves “What have I done to deserve this?” In the end, Job is restored – but not one of his questions are answered.

There is so much mystery in our relationship with God and in God’s relationship with us. We don’t ever really understand why things happen. Sometimes it all seems so random. Why is one cured and another is not, for instance? And in the mystery, in the love, there is a struggle, and in the

struggle there is love, and often the struggle is great – as in all true love.

We need to crowd around God’s front door, to clamour with the crowd. Everyone has a very different story, groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, and so forth depend on the prayer and support of others in the group, and need to depend on the Higher Power. Similarly, when it comes to the demons that can haunt us and need removing from our heart – there is only one supreme Physician.

Capernaum was a lakeside town. All fishermen, including Simon, knew that when things get rough, a safe place is needed. You also shelter each other at Harbour: the little community you may be reading this at is meant to be such a safe place. Where we can pray, recharge, adjust our sails and set again our goal to travel the world. ■

– Tom Cox

### Reflection

In what way Jesus can come to us in our times?

### Lesson

There is a struggle, and in the struggle there is love, and often the struggle is great – as in all true love.

### Prayer

Lord, may we always show the concern and kindness of your Son to the sick, the sorrowful and the lonely.

### This Week (5–11 February)

- 5 **Mon** St Agatha, virgin and martyr
- 6 **Tue** Ss Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs
- 7 **Wed** St Mel, bishop
- 8 **Thur** St Jerome Emiliani, priest
- 9 **Fri** St Teilo, bishop
- 10 **Sat** St Scholastica, virgin
- 11 **Sun** SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME







# 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)



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:29-39

*This passage contains three stories and there is food for thought in each of them.*

1. The first story (vv. 29-31) is one of healing. You might reflect on times when you were sick in body, mind or spirit and someone was a 'Jesus person' to you, someone who 'took you by the hand and lifted you up'. Remember them with gratitude. Have there been times also when you did this for others?

2. The second story (vv. 32-34) adds another dimension. People are freed from demons. Have you had the experience of being freed from demons that imprisoned you: fear, anxiety, guilt, low self-esteem, addictions, bitterness, etc.? What was it like for you to get that freedom? Who were the 'Jesus people' who helped to free you?

3. The third story (vv. 35-39) has a number of different elements we can consider

a) Jesus goes off to a desert place to pray. After a hectic day he felt the need for quiet to ground himself once more. In the busyness of life how do you keep in touch with what is going on inside yourself? How do you keep in touch with God? Where do you find your 'deserted place'? What difference does it make for you when you do succeed in taking time out?

b) Jesus shows himself as a person seeking to break new ground. The disciples want him to continue ministry where he is. He wants to move on. What has been your experience of breaking new ground, moving beyond your comfort zone, or trying something you had not tried before? When has this had a life-giving effect for you?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

## WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Eileen Irvine, Theresa Curran, Mary McMahon, Bridlin Finnegan, Kathleen Hegarty (mother of Fr Ciaran Hegarty), Mary Gallagher,

Anniversaries: Minnie Tanney, Claire Burke (née Kelly), Michael Gallagher, James McDonnell, Catherine, Patrick & Tommy Bell and Tommy Junior, Seamus Boyle, Patrick Gunn, Jim & Kathleen McCann, Michael Gallagher (Sun 4th Feb at 11:30am) Brigid Murray (11st Anniv Thurs 8th Feb at 9:30am), Betty McParland (Sat 10th Feb at 6:30pm), Mary Hughes (Sun 18th Feb at 11:30am)

## READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### Sun 4th February

#### READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney  
Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Eileen Dunn

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

### Sun 11th February

#### READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen  
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £747.38, Living Youth £18.50, Monthly Stipend £5, Shrines £97.52.

**NEW ENVELOPES ARE BEING ORDERED.** 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 ALSO:** The Old £1 coin will no longer be accepted in collection envelopes or candelabra/shrines.

**Flu Advice:** The customary "sign of peace" handshake exchanged during Mass is suspended until the risk of infection is significantly reduced. Similarly, the sharing of the Chalice (with communicants or with Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass should be temporarily suspended, for the same reason. Please use alcohol hand gel on entry and exit of church.

**The World Meeting of Families—The Amoris Programme – 'Let's Talk Family'.** This is a programme of discussion and sharing of aspects of family life and faith, whether you are married or not, practicing faith or not, children, parents, grandparents, uncles/aunts, in an atmosphere of acceptance and encouragement. It is envisaged that this 6-session programme would take place in the six weeks of Lent, and should last 1½ hour sessions. If it takes place in St Anthony's the sessions will take place on Thursdays starting Thurs 15th February, and run 15th, 22nd, 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd March 2018, 7:30-9pm, including a 20 minute half-time break. But this is dependent upon participation and a range of ages over 16 years. If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested then please put your name, address and contact details on a sheet in the sacristy or give your name etc to Fr McCann. The cut-off date is by the weekend of 10th/11th February so that materials can be ordered. If there is little response then the programme sessions will be postponed to a later time.

**Diocesan Vocations Weekend.** For those discerning a vocation to the priesthood. The retreat will take place in Drumalis Retreat Centre, from Friday 16th – Sunday 18th February 2018. Contact: Fr. Kevin McGuckien, 23 Hannahstown Hill, Belfast, BT17 0LT (02890614567) Email:k.mcguckien@downandconnor.org.

## Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage:

**The Emerald Ball** will take place at Titanic, Belfast on St Patrick's Day, 17th March 2018. The evening will commence with drinks at 7pm, to be followed by a superb four course dinner at 8pm. There will be a luxury ballot and dancing to a live band. Dress is formal and monies raised will support the Down and Connor Lourdes Pilgrimage for the Sick. Tickets are £60 each and available from the pilgrimage secretary, Sinead on 028 9064 6040 or the Drumbo Parish office on 028 9081 2238. See poster in porch.

**Application forms** for the 2018 Pilgrimage are available in the Sacristy. 7 Nights 10-17th July £725, 5 Nights 11-16th July £650, or with care in the Accueil Notre-Damme £550, Youth Team 8-17th July £590 (with extra preparation meetings etc, - closing date for Youth Applications 16th March). See poster in porch.

**Nurses for Lourdes:** we are currently seeking nurses (on the NMC live register - working in any area) to join the volunteer staff of the Diocesan Pilgrimage (11-16th July 2018). For more information please email us at [lourdes@downandconnor.org](mailto:lourdes@downandconnor.org) or telephone the Pilgrimage Office (028) 90646040. The subsidised fare for nurses is £520. Thank you

**Course for Ministers of the Word.** The second part of this programme, will take place on Monday evenings, 7-9.30pm, (including 30 minutes break), continues 12th & 26th February, 12th March, 9th & 23rd April. St Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast.

**Lenten Pioneer Pledge.** Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent. Why not take this opportunity to perhaps help yourself or someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for freedom from addiction? Please consider taking the short term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life. Register your pledge with local Pioneers and say the daily prayer.

**Dominican Vocations Discernment Weekend:** 9th – 11th March 2018. (Friday evening – Sunday afternoon). Forsingle young women (20-40) to our retreat house and offer the opportunity to experience our life of Prayer: - Eucharistic Adoration – Talks – Sisters' testimonies – Lectio Divina – Question time – Food and Fellowship. Those who cannot come for full weekend are welcome to join us on Saturday (10th) 9.30 am – 7.00 pm. (Early booking advisable as places are limited) Venue: Siena Monastery, The Twenties, Drogheda, Co Louth. Contact: Sr M Breda OP – [siena3@eircom.net](mailto:siena3@eircom.net) or Tel: 041-9838524; [www.dominicannuns.ie](http://www.dominicannuns.ie).

**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.