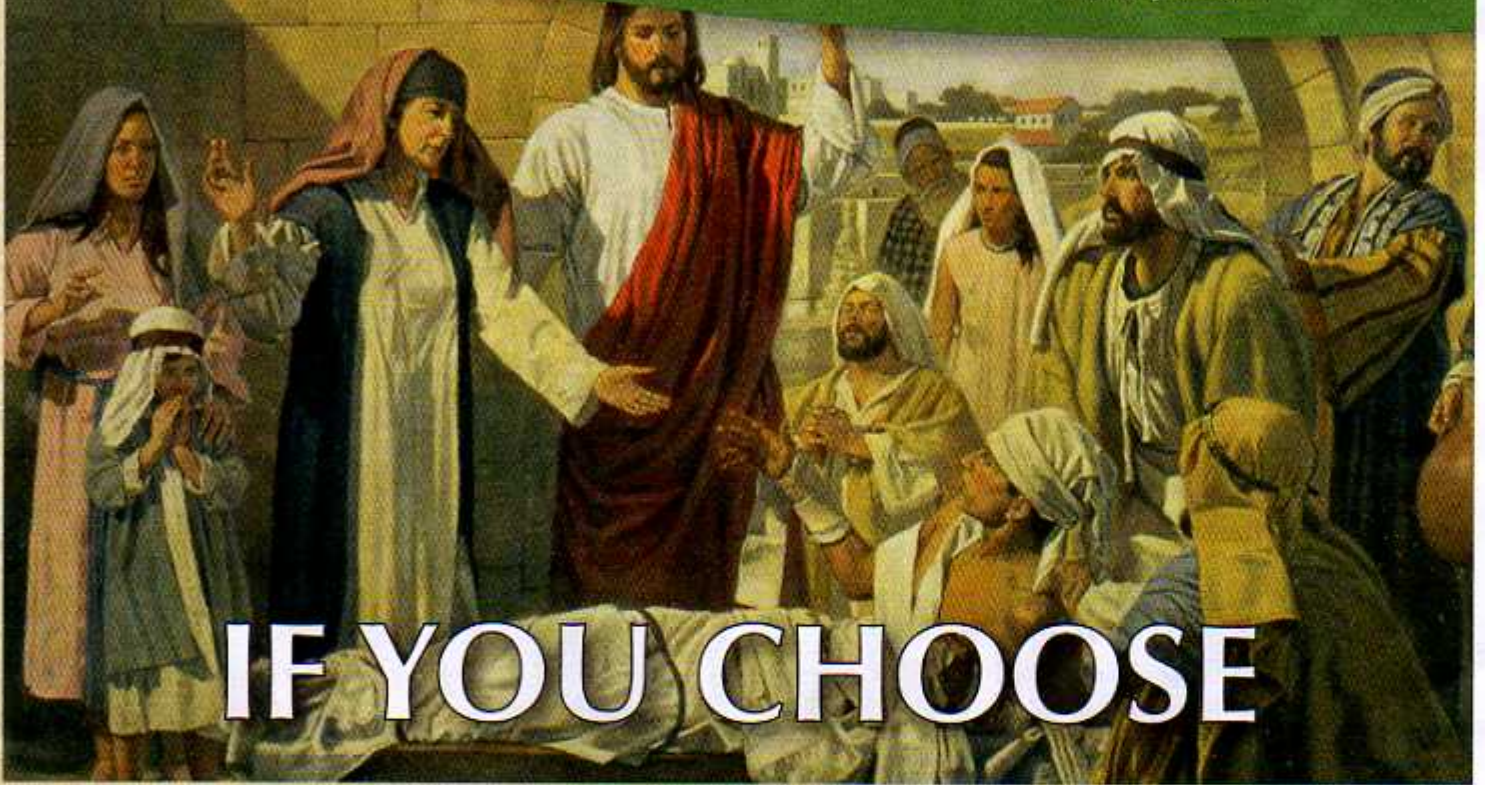


# Parish Newsletter

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 11 February 2018  
Year B | Issue 11



## IF YOU CHOOSE

**A**s I read this week's Gospel, my mind goes to what seems like a thousand bedtimes and farewells that I have witnessed over the years. I have seen grace, nobility, family at its best – I have also seen what is fractured and broken in a family held up painfully to the light in a time of sickness. Writing these words I ponder on what the leper says, "If you want to...you can cure me." Stretching out his hand and touching him, Jesus says, "Of course I want to! Be cured!"

As life progresses with far less surety and answers to the questions of life, it is a complete mystery to me how some are healed and others are not. How does Jesus choose, and where, and why? At times he will stretch out his hand, and at other times he seems to withhold it. It is all so easy in the Gospel. But why the Leper, and not my friend/father/mother/sister/brother? Why the mother-in-law of Simon, as we saw last week, and not the numberless others across the ages who have also

### Today's Readings



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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Genesis 9:8-15  
Psalm 24:4-9  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:12-15

(continued on back page)



lived with illness and pain? Why – do you not want to heal... Lord?

So many questions. And yet we all see the miracles that do come at such times – the daily wonder of connection in the midst of a world that pushes us towards isolation and tells us that everything is a choice and we are autonomous beings. The marvels of

**Love is never defeated, and I could add, the history of Ireland proves it.**  
– St John Paul II

friendship and neighbourliness that cover us like a comforting blanket at those broken points of life. We're very "good" at funerals, particularly in rural Ireland – food, attending, stewarding, car parking – all just "happens". Not so good at the follow-up contact. I don't

### Reflection

What is your attitude toward people who are sick? Try to reflect the interior feeling of Jesus when he was moved to pity?

### Lesson

Stories of healing show that God is mighty and also very loving.

### Prayer

Lord, teach us the value of suffering, and enable us to reach out with compassion. Amen.

let myself off the hook on that one and I do not let Jesus off the hook for the way he sometimes chooses.

And yet I have seen real beauty in a time of pain and loss. I see and hear real talk around a loved one's sickbed. Words of blessing, grace, and light and even as the body may break – wounds become doorways, scars become sacred maps and tears become pools of gladness as sorrow and joy intermingle in a wondrous way. There is still something fiercely intact and persistently whole at these times.

Maybe the "robes" of traditional Church ritual don't match so well these days, the ability to even pray formally far more hesitant, but there is enough faith in us to live in the light, towards the light and to become light bearers to one another. ■

– Tom Cox

### This Week (12–18 February)

- 12 **Mon** St Damian
- 13 **Tue** St Catherine of Ricci
- 14 **Wed** ASH WEDNESDAY
- 15 **Thur** St Sigfrid of Vaxjo
- 16 **Fri** St Onesimus, bishop and martyr
- 17 **Sat** The Seven Founders of the Order of Servites
- 18 **Sun** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT







# 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)



## SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER OF THE SICK

SEEKING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:40-45

1. *Jesus' compassion for people suffering was an outstanding characteristic of his ministry. We see the healing power of God at work through him. Recall times when the compassion of others has had a healing effect on you. Remember also when your compassion towards someone in trouble brought them hope, healing or strength.*

2. *'If you choose, you can make me clean'. Our choice is a key factor in how we affect others. We cannot choose to have no impact on the people in our lives. Even a choice to do nothing has an effect. When have you been particularly aware of the importance of your choice to be a positive influence on another?*

3. *Lepers were forced to live away from others. The leper's cure meant that he was also readmitted to contact with the community. Perhaps you recall people who were once ostracized being brought back into family or community. Who was the Jesus person who helped this healing to take place?*

4. *The joy of the leper on being healed was such that he could not keep the good news to himself. Bring to mind occasions when you were so filled with good news that you could not keep it to yourself?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

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

Anniversaries: Michael Gallagher, James McDonnell, Catherine, Patrick & Tommy Bell and Tommy Junior, Seamus Boyle, Patrick Gunn, Jim & Kathleen McCann, Michael Gallagher, Brigid Murray, Betty McParland (Sat 10th Feb at 6:30pm), Brigid Curran (Sun 11th at 11:30am), Mary Hughes (Sun 18th Feb at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 18th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford  
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright  
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £780.16, Weekly Collection £50, Living Youth £10, Shrines £108.47.

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.

**Flu Advice:** The "sign of peace" handshake and the sharing of the Chalice with communicants or with Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are suspended until further notice. Please use alcohol hand gel on entry and exit of church.

**Season of Lent begins on Wed 14th of February.** Masses: Wed 9:30am English, 7pm Polish when Ashes will be imposed. Trócaire Boxes are available in the Church Porch. During Lent there will Stations of the Cross in St Anthony's before the Friday 7pm Mass, beginning at 6:15pm.

### The World Meeting of Families Dublin 22-24 August 2018:

Resources for Valentines Day, Cards and Gift Tokens on the Themes of the Joy of Loy by Pope Francis are available in the Porch.

The Amoris Programme - 'Let's Talk Family'. Due to the current lack of interest, this programme is postponed until after Easter. The course may be happening in neighbouring parishes.

Registration for all WMOF2018 events is open via www.worldmeeting2018.ie. Individual pilgrims and families can now register for the main three-day WMOF2018 Congress from August 22nd - 24th, guaranteeing your ticket(s) for the Festival of Families on Saturday 25th August and for the Closing Mass on Sunday, 26th August. Don't miss out on these once in a generation events. REGISTER NOW! www.worldmeeting2018.ie. See Notice Board Poster in the Porch for more information about the World Meeting of Families.

### 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 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.

Shalom World Retreat March Friday 2nd March 10:30am to Sunday 4th March 2:30pm. Mass, Eucharistic Devotion, Inspiring Talks, Praise and Worship, Spiritual Sharing and Powerful Testimonies. In Carmelite Retreat Centre, Termonbacca, Derry. Opening Mass with Bishop McKeown, speakers Rev. Dr. George Anthony OP, Dr. Zubin Paul Jacob, Luigi Vescio. Register at shalommedia.org/retreat. Fee 90 euro including food and accommodation. Contact 07733399943. Poster in Porch.

ASIST - Suicide Intervention skills - FREE 2 day workshop. Do you want to help make this a suicide safer community? This interactive 2 day course organised by Bredagh GAC can provide you with the confidence and skills to ask about suicide if you are concerned about someone's safety. Anyone (over the age of 16yrs) can apply -no previous skills are required. Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the two days. Lunch will be provided and is sponsored by McLaughlin & Woods Ltd. 28th February and 1st March (must attend both days), in LORAG - Shafesbury Leisure Centre, 9.15am- 4.45pm. Interested? Contact Margaret Woods on woodsm78@aol.com or phone 07510514979.

Torchlight Rosary Procession in Belfast for feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - Sun 11th Feb 2018. World Day of the Sick and 160th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady to St. Bernadette in Lourdes. There will be a torchlight rosary procession in The Grotto in St. Mary's, Chapel Lane, Belfast, on Sunday evening starting at 8 p.m. to pray for all who are sick at this time and for all who care for the sick. Candles for the procession will be available from 7.45 p.m. Roses will also be blessed to bring home to the sick. All are welcome.

Keep Calm-Slow Down for Lent. 11am- 3pm Clonard Monastery, Saturday 24 February. A chance for you to experience Lent differently, with space to pray and think, gently guided by Breige O'Hare. Bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee provided. Donation £5. It's a really popular day so booking is essential. Ring Clonard 02890445950 or contact Breige through www.athomewithgod.co.uk.

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.