

# Parish Newsletter

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT | 18 February 2018  
Year B | Issue 12

## BELOVED AND BEWILDERED

Remember a lovely phrase given during a retreat. As I recall it... the retreat director was pointing out that it was right after the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan that he was driven into the desert to be tested for weeks and weeks. It was in the Jordan that Jesus heard he was “beloved” and then he was banished to the desert. The speaker used the phrase “Beloved and Bewildered” which seems to sum us all up. I don’t think he was thinking of Ella Fitzgerald or Sinéad O’Connor

who sang “Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered!”

It seems to me that our first experience in the womb is of complete all – enveloping security. All our needs are met in the most intimate of environments – our mother’s womb. In short, we are “beloved” (okay, so we give a few not so appreciative kicks to our poor Mum but still!). Then we are expelled into harsh lights and noise, having to learn everything. We

### Today's Readings



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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18  
Psalm 115:10, 15-19  
Romans 8:31-34  
Mark 9:2-10

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move from being beloved to a state of bewilderment in this wilderness world.

It would seem from an article I read that the modern human is still intrigued, bewildered, horrified and enraptured by religion (*Economist*, "Living with Gods" 2 Nov 2017). We are probably still hardwired for religion as some will argue but that wiring seems to be loosening and connections getting frayed.

For people of faith, it's a little bit like our human experience of love. As one man humorously put it – there you are – sitting bewildered with your beloved and feeling dumbfounded by the whole experience.

But for people of no faith, it seems

to be "not bothered" rather than "bewildered" or "beloved".

The rainbow of the First Reading is God's promise in a post-deluge world. With the grim reality of climate change in "our common home – Earth" (Pope Francis), rising waters is a growing issue. Morally the world is flooded in other ways. Just as the rainbow is only seen after the rain – it would seem that if you want to reach your goals, you have to be able to put up with the pain.

Take a Lenten invitation of forty days to see in what way we can practically live out our call in the wilderness of this world as Beloved, and yes – Bewildered. Lent is not a thing, a movement, a practice, not even a process. It is the story of Jesus in each of us, falling and rising as we walk the sands of time together in a wild and wonderful world. ■

– Tom Cox

## Reflection

Ponder how the Holy Spirit, who comes to Jesus at the river, stirs in him the desire to confront Satan, the enemy of all that is human.

## Lesson

It is the story of Jesus in each of us, falling and rising as we walk...

## Prayer

Lord, help me to proclaim the Good News during this Lent, by words, by actions, or by a personal witness of life.



### This Week (19–25 February)

- 19 **Mon** St Boniface of Lausanne
- 20 **Tue** St Wulfic, hermit
- 21 **Wed** St Peter Damian, bishop
- 22 **Thur** THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, APOSTLE
- 23 **Fri** St Polycarp, bishop and martyr
- 24 **Sat** St Walburga
- 25 **Sun** SECOND 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](mailto:h.mccann@downandconnor.org), [stanthonys@downandconnor.org](mailto:stanthonys@downandconnor.org),  
[henrymccann@hotmail.com](mailto:henrymccann@hotmail.com), Website: [www.saintanthony.co.uk](http://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)



## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:12-15

1. *Jesus he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.*

2. *Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time. Later, with hindsight, we may see them as being good for us. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?*

3. *Repent and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God, others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?*

4. *There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: 'the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near'. Recall when you had a realisation that NOW was the moment of opportunity - for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say 'yes'?*

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

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Mary McMahon, Bridlin Finnegan, Kathleen Hegarty (mother of Fr Ciaran Hegarty), Mary Gallagher, Sam Frizzell, Daniel Joseph (Don) Owens, (father of Fr Peter)

Anniversaries: Seamus Boyle, Patrick Gunn, Michael Gallagher, Brigid Murray, Betty McParland, Bridget Curran, Mary Hughes (Sun 18th Feb at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 25th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney  
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy  
Morning Mass: James Henderson

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £586.61, Monthly Stipend £5, Living Youth £5, Shrines £246.63.

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. Let Fr McCann know if your address details have changed.

Next Sunday 25th Feb we have the 3rd National Collection for the World Meeting of Families. Please be as generous as you can.

**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.

**Lenten Devotions:** Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6:15pm before mass.

### Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage:

The Emerald Ball will take place at Titanic, Belfast on St Patrick's Day, 17th March 2018. 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. Handout available in the sacristy.

**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](http://shalommedia.org/retreat). Fee 90 euro including food and accommodation. Contact 07733399943. Poster in Porch.

**ASIST - Suicide Intervention skills - FREE 2 day workshop.** 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 [woods78@aol.com](mailto:woods78@aol.com) or phone 07510514979.

**Radio Maria Ireland** is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies - all commercial free - Listen via FREE App "RADIO MARIA IRELAND", streaming on [www.radiomaria.ie](http://www.radiomaria.ie) or via PHONE - get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply). Please join our growing faith family!

**St Colmcille's Lenten Prayer Sessions:** St Colmcille's parish, will offer a programme of prayer in Lent for those who are seeking ways to enhance their prayer life, or to find a new way of praying. The sessions will be based around *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina*. *Lectio Divina*, a Latin term, means 'divine reading' and describes a way of reading the scripture whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. *Visio Divina* shares its roots with *Lectio Divina*. It invites the viewer into 'divine seeing' when meditating on the image that is presented to the individual. With our culture becoming more and more visually oriented, an intentional way of praying with images is needed more than ever. *Visio Divina* invites us to a more contemplative place. The programme of prayer will take place in St Colmcille's Parochial Hall on Tuesdays 6th, 13th and 20th March at 7.30pm and will be repeated on the subsequent Friday mornings, 9th, 16th and 23rd March at 10.00am. Enquiries to Noeleen 07879 498131.

**Course for Ministers of Holy Communion:** In conjunction with 'Paula McKeown, Director of 'Living Church', the Pastoral Council would like to provide a short course of instruction and training for new Ministers of Holy Communion. It will take place on 20th Feb, 27th Feb and 6th March, in the Good Shepherd Centre during Lent. If you are interested, please give your name to the secretary: Tel: 90642446, or to Fr McKenna personally. The course is also open to existing Ministers of Holy Communion and is an ideal opportunity to do something 'extra' during Lent. It is envisaged that there will be 3-4 sessions in total, culminating in a Service of Installation.

**Woman's World Day of Prayer** will be held in St Anthony's, Willowfield on Fri 2nd March at 8pm. Everyone welcome. Mass that morning 9:30am