

# Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT | 25 February 2018  
Year B | Issue 13

## THE WILD DIVINE

I was thinking anew about this Gospel, about Peter's blurted out offer to build three booths or tents for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. It was a sincere sentiment, but it was sincerely wrong. Three tents would mean that all three were equal. It was not for no reason that God spoke through the cloud and declared Jesus as "beloved", meaning unique. There is no one else like Jesus! Not Moses. Not Elijah. Not Peter. Not Zoroaster, Buddha, or Muhammad. No one in Heaven or on earth. Three shrines would have made

Moses and Elijah equal with Christ, and God would have none of it. Only one shrine should be built because only one person on the mountain deserved to be worshipped. How often have we more or less said that things are relative – but this is Christ we're talking about! It's all or nothing.

Also, Peter, James, and John were told to come down – not to stay on the mountaintop. Augustine wrote more or less about this with:

### Today's Readings



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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 18:8-11  
1 Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

(continued on back page)

Come down, Peter! ... Proclaim the Word! Keep at it in season and out of season. Convict. Admonish. ... Work. Perspire. Endure torture. ... Come down in order to work on earth, to serve on earth, to be despised, to be crucified on earth. Life comes down to be killed; bread comes down to be used up; the way comes down to become exhausted underway; the spring comes down to run dry. And you refuse to work? Do not seek what is yours. Have love. Proclaim the truth. Then you will come to eternity where you will find certainty!

It is Peter's job to build a Church on earth not a hut on the mountaintop. You can't domesticate or tame the divine. As I approach my 27<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood in this Year of the International Gathering of Families,

these words have an amazing effect of refreshing and reorienting me. I read them and I am ready to get back to work!

The call is to listen. Every day we have a chance to stop, to put aside our work, to take a few deep breaths, to kinda step outside the day-to-day activities; to settle down, to let things go quiet inside and out, to switch off a phone, to be still, and to know that he is there right with you because that's where he always is and wants to be.

We all want the same as Peter – that encounter with God – some sense that we are not alone, that there is something more than what we can see and touch and yet in those very moments, we try to squeeze God into a plan, a slot. It doesn't work that way and was never meant to.

– Tom Cox



## Reflection

In what ways have you recently experienced transfiguration?



## Lesson

It is through imitating Jesus' example of discipleship that a person shares in new life.



## Prayer

Lord, lead us to your holy mountain. Teach us through your law and your prophets.



## This Week (26 February–4 March)

- 26 **Mon** St Alexander of Alexandria
- 27 **Tue** St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 28 **Wed** St Oswald of Worcester
- 1 **Thur** ST DAVID, PATRON OF WALES
- 2 **Fri** St Chad, bishop
- 3 **Sat** St Marinus of Caesarea
- 4 **Sun** THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT





# 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)



## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 9:2-10

1. Some special spiritual experiences are well nigh impossible to describe in words. The Transfiguration was one of these. Jesus had a new and deeper insight into his relationship with his heavenly Father, one that would sustain him through what lay ahead of him. Have you had WOW moments that you found hard to describe to others? How have these sustained you in difficult times?

2. It can be both scary and wonderful to witness transformation in another, especially a person who is close. At times parents get a taste of this when a child's talent blossoms and is recognised by the child. We may also experience it when a dear friend recognises s/he is in a blind alley and gives up an addiction.

3. 'This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.' Peter, James and John were particularly close to Jesus but they were not good at listening to Jesus, especially when he spoke of the painful road of servant discipleship. Jesus is the one we must listen to, even when his message is hard to hear, for it is in this message we find life. When have you found this to be true?

4. Strangely, this instruction came to the disciples when they were confused and 'in a cloud'. Perhaps you recall a moment of insight coming to you at a time when you were confused.

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

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

Anniversaries: Michael Gallagher, Brigid Murray, Betty McParland, Bridget Curran, Mary Hughes, Frederick Charles McGreevy (Sat 10th March at 6:30pm), Susan Gallagher (Sun 11th March at 11:30am), Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 18th March at 11:30am).

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 4th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen  
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Sick & Retired Priests £489.48, Weekly Collection £330.82, Monthly Stipend £25, Shrines £98.87.

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.

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

**Lenten Devotions:** Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6:15pm before mass. Please note there will be no Stations on Fri 2nd March.

**Trócaire:** "Love...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13, 4-7. Trócaire has launched it's Lenten campaign 'Until Love Conquers Fear'. Fear is felt by millions of people around the world who can't feed their families, are forced to flee their homes because of conflict or are imprisoned for standing up for their

rights. Love is the support shown to them by people here at home through the Lenten campaign. To find out more visit [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)

**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 26th February, 12th March, 9th & 23rd April. St Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast. Handouts available in the sacristy for those who cannot attend.

**42nd Street—St. Agnes' Choral Society** are excited to be producing the Broadway Classic, 42nd Street, from 10th-14th April. The show is also currently running in The West End but why not avail of the chance to see it in The Grand Opera House? Tickets can be purchased online at [www.goh.co.uk](http://www.goh.co.uk) or via the Box Office on 028 9024 1919

**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 - Shaftesbury 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*. 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

**The Parish of Drumbo & Carryduff - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Tuesday 22 - Wednesday 30 May 2018).** Drumbo Parish invite you to join their Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - In The Footsteps of Christ & the Holy Family. Package price - £1,440 per person sharing. This includes return coach transfers from Carryduff to Dublin Airport, return flights with British Airways, generous luggage allowance, 4\* Hotels on a half board basis (3 nights Tiberias / 4 nights Jerusalem). & all excursions. If you are interested to receive further information please contact the Parish Office on 028 90812238 opt 2 or Anam Cara Travel - 02825 821 690. This pilgrimage is organised and coordinated by Anam Cara Travel (Co Antrim). Limited Places Remaining!

**The Heart of Living & Dying: What Matters to YOU?** Starting conversations about your wishes around death & dying. Tuesday 13th March 2018, 6.30 - 8.30 pm, 'Garden Coffee Shop', Clotworthy House, Randalstown Road, Antrim. Light refreshments provided. No need to book. All adults welcome! Further information: Fiona (T) 07867 442178, [fiona.gilmour2@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:fiona.gilmour2@northerntrust.hscni.net)

**Willowfield COI invite senior citizens of St Anthony's to St Patrick's Day Dinner** on Wed 14th March 2-4pm, Willowfield Church halls. If interested give your names to Fr Henry ASAP

**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.