

Parish Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Cycle C

3 February 2019
Issue 10



BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

We have all heard the phrase 'blinded by hatred' and today's Gospel may give us an instance of this. For how else could Jesus simply 'slip' through the crowd, who seemed intent on his blood, unless it is the case that we can be so poisoned by hatred that when love is present we are blind to it and love withdraws from us and leaves us to our own embittering devices. Love cannot co-exist with hatred. But hatred doesn't have the last word and none of

us is condemned to be stuck in such a dark place.

Take Paul, for instance, the author of the famous words in the Second Reading. Formerly known as Saul, he changed from persecutor to preacher; he was blinded but then he saw. His masterpiece of a treatise in our Second Reading today was written not for a couple getting married, but to the divided community of Corinth, who he loved very much. We see love

Today's Readings



Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 70:1-6, 15, 17
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Luke 4:21-30

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 137:1-5, 7-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

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emerge as the antidote to hatred and the restorer of sight to all that is blind in each of us. A colleague was once asked by his church of baptism to preach at an anniversary celebration, at the end of which, a parishioner spoke and thanked him, saying, 'I always remember our speaker as a narrator in the nativity play: he was so cute back then – and still is.' This opinion of him was based on the childhood past, not the adult that stood before them. As the colleague concluded – you can always go back to the place where you were raised!

In a cartoon depicting a Sunday morning congregation filing out of the church, one of the worshipers says to the pastor, 'I agreed with every word in your sermon! Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone thought like us?'

Be careful what you wish for! Sadly, whatever you think about agreeing or disagreeing, I'm not sure if people in the church today even think of (or remember?) God's word as something personal addressed to them today. So, whatever one feels about the violent outcome, the people at Nazareth, in the Gospel, really believed that God speaks to His people. Do we even go that far? Is apathy or a mumbled 'thanks be to God' any better than their attitude? Do we really believe that when we pray the 'Our Father' we are actually addressing God and so ought to mean every word we sing or say in our gatherings of prayer? God still speaks – let us make use of the ears we have to hear.

– Tom Cox

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

– Pope Francis

Reflection

Who are the prophets of today? In what ways do you reject them?

Lesson

God still speaks – let us have ears to hear.

Prayer

God of Elijah and Elisha, when you were rejected by those whom you call your own, you made your dwelling with other people and worked your great deeds among them. Help us to recognise the prophets in our midst today.



This Week (4-10 February)

- 4 **Mon** St Gilbert of Sempringham, priest
- 5 **Tue** St Agatha, virgin and martyr
- 6 **Wed** St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs
- 7 **Thur** St Chrysolius, bishop & martyr, St Mel, bishop
- 8 **Fri** St Josephine Bakhita, virgin
- 9 **Sat** St Teilo, bishop
- 10 **Sun** FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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)



4TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS
 Luke 4:21-30

1. The people of Nazareth could not accept that this local boy had something to teach them. Fixed ideas about people can at times block us from hearing what is being said. What a difference when we drop our prejudices! Perhaps you have experienced hearing an important truth when you focussed on what was being said, rather than on the person saying it?
2. The anger of the people arose when Jesus confronted them with God's inclusive ways. For them, God was 'their God' and God's blessings were for them. Jesus reminded them that this is not God's way. When have you been challenged to think in new ways and not to be excluding some people from your thoughts or concerns? Was there good news for you in the challenge?
3. Jesus continued his work despite the opposition. Have there been times when despite opposition you have been able to 'walk through the people' and 'continue on your way'? Have you seen this courage in others.

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Betty McBride (Mullan Mews)
Anniversaries: Claire Burke (nee Kelly), Eileen & James Irvine, Patrick Gunn, Jim & Kathleen McCann, James McDonnell, Mary Riordan, Brigid & John Rooney, Eric Young, Michael Gallagher, Seamus Boyle, Brigid Murray (Thurs 7th Feb at 9:30am), Michael Gallagher Jnr (Sun 10th Feb at 11:30am), Brigid Curran (Sun 11th Feb at 11:30am), Mary Hughes (Sun 24th Feb at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 3rd February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford
 Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
 Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 10th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford
 Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
 Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £598.88, Living Youth £29, Monthly Stipend £20, Shrines £86.66.

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.

BBC Radio Ulster Broadcast Mass. Last Summer Rev. Bert Tosh, director of Religious Broadcasting asked if the parish would be available for a Radio Broadcast Mass, but it had to be postponed. As part of the 80th Year of Celebrations there will be a Mass on Sun 3rd March at 10:15am. More details later.

Diocesan Vocation Weekend. "Ask Jesus what he wants from you and be brave!" (Pope Francis) Why not take time to explore and reflect on becoming a priest. Join us at the Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne from Friday 15 – Sunday 17 February 2019. If you wish to attend this weekend or would like further information contact: Fr. Kevin McGuenkien Tel: 02890614567; Email: vocations@downandconnor.org.

Oberammergau Passion Play fully escorted tour ex Dublin 22nd August 2020 - 7 days. (play performed only every 10 years). Visiting Innsbruck Salzburg and Lake Constance. Price includes daily tours, tickets for the Passion Play and dinner/bed and breakfast at the hotels. £2049pp twin sharing (single room supplement £295) Limited availability. DEPOSIT £200pp. Contact Marie or Paul Downe Travel - tel. 02844 613288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

Thinking about volunteering in 2019? Parkinson's UK currently have a variety of volunteer roles on offer. We have roles that require just a couple of hours of your time per month, home based roles and roles where you can help decide priorities within your local area. So, whether you thrive in a group environment or enjoy making strategic decisions in a small team, please call Emma McKeown on 0797 686 6649 for a no obligation chat to kick start your volunteering journey or email emckeown@parkinsons.org.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

30th Anniversary 'Homegrown' Concert celebrating the work of TinyLife, the premature baby charity. Friday 1st March 2019 at 8 pm in Clonard Monastery, Belfast. Artists include the cream of Northern Ireland talent: The Priests, Karl McGuckin, Malachi Cush, Andrea Begley, Eimear McGeown, Niamh Perry, St Dominics Grammar School Choir & Special Guest Phil Coulter. Tickets £20 available from Clonard office, TinyLife office (Bloomfield Avenue) tel: 02890 815050 or online www.buytickets.at/tinylife.

Trócaire Volunteers: How marvellous it would be at the end of the day each of us could say: today, I have performed an act of charity towards others'. Pope Francis. Trócaire is looking for volunteers in the Diocese of Down and Connor to bring social justice alive in their parishes. For more information contact Maria in Trócaire at 028 90808036 or email maria.kane@trocaire.org.

Fr James Keenan SJ, Professor of Moral Theology in Boston, will deliver a talk on "What's so Good about Virtue Ethics?" in the Holy Rosary (Good Shepherd) Parish Centre, 511 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3GS, on Wednesday, 6th February at 7.30pm. All welcome to attend and Car Parking is available in the grounds of the Centre.

4 Corners Festival Belfast. This inter-denominational festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs from January 30 to February 10. It consists of more than 20 events throughout Belfast, including a concert in St Peter's Cathedral and a talk at Clonard Monastery. The theme is "Scandalous Forgiveness" and the intention is to promote discussion about the role of forgiveness in our divided society through music, prayer and discussion. The keynote speaker is Fr Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit priest who has devoted his life to rehabilitating ex-gang members in Los Angeles. The Festival was co-founded in 2012 by Catholic priest, Fr Martin Magill and Presbyterian minister, Rev Steve Stockman. The events are free and further details can be found at the website 4cornersfestival.com.

Pilgrimage to Rome/San Giovanni 15th / 22nd April Easter 2019 with Papal Ceremonies in Rome for the Easter Period 7 nights €995 pps Payments can be made in instalments. Contact James Treacy on 061921470 or 0860572216.

Dublin Medjugorje Pilgrimage Group for the Youth Festival 2019 at August Bank Holiday Weekend. One of the biggest events of the year in Medjugorje. ex Dublin costs €725 pps for 7 nights. Payment can also be made in instalments Contact James Treacy 061-921470 or contact Joe Walsh Tours on 01-2410800.

The West Belfast Historical Society is meeting on Friday the 8th of February at 7.30pm in St. Michael's Parish Centre on Finaghy Road North (Access via Church Gateway on Finaghy Road North just before the garage opposite the Church at junction with Andersonstown Road). The February talk is entitled "HAPPENINGS IN THE LEAD UP TO WW1". The guest speaker will be "Dr. STEPHEN GOSS". All are Welcome to Attend and Refreshments will be provided