

Parish Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 10 February 2019
Cycle C | Issue 11

CALL AND RESPONSE

It's a time of transition in parishes, with increasing numbers of parishes no longer having a resident priest. Words and analysis are plentiful, silver bullet solutions abide (married/female priesthood, imported clergy etc.), but concrete solutions are in short supply. Dioceses engage in the listening process, organising synods and assemblies and maximising resources by clustering arrangements. All very good but the result can be simply shared perplexity as to how to support faith in turbulent times.

Many will call for increased participation on the part of parishioners and while some priests report that people are generally well disposed to help, they are slow to take over the wheel with strong instances of 'Whatever you think yourself, Father,' being the response to a query on what steps need to be taken. 'Unloading the wagons' is a key concept in a book which I enjoyed reading: *The Lost Art of Walking on Water*. That is what I was thinking about in relation to today's Gospel, which has the early followers of Jesus being called from working on

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-4,6
1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20
Luke 6:17,20-26

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water to becoming 'fishers of men' on land. They knew the whims of the sea and how to face the elements. Today's Gospel passage has empty nets made full by the Lord and brought ashore.

'Unloading the wagons' represents the idea that priests are called to lead the 'pastoral wagon' and not get overly involved in the concrete, non-pastoral, tasks of increasing administrative duties, however good and important they may be.

There is much to be done in training people for unknown, future roles in an undoubtedly smaller Irish Church. It's good at these times to remember that, as today's Gospel shows us, God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called.



Reflection

In what ways has the Lord called you to discipleship?



Lesson

Today's Gospel shows us – God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called.



Prayer

Lord, you send your word as bait to your people, and you raise up men and women who preach your good news. Give success to all their fishing endeavours.

They tell a story of Jesus returning to Heaven, on his Ascension. The welcome is great and when all settles down Gabriel, who announced it all, was having a quiet word with Jesus. 'Master, you must have suffered terribly for men down there.' 'I did,' he said. 'And,' continued Gabriel, 'Do they know all about how you loved them and what you did for them?' 'Oh, no,' said Jesus, 'not yet. Right now only a handful of people in Palestine know.' Gabriel was perplexed. 'Then what have you done to let everyone know about your love for them?' Jesus said, 'I've asked Peter, James, John, and a few more friends to tell other people about me. Those who are told will, in turn, tell still other people, and so my story will spread.' Gabriel frowned (knowing how frail and weak humanity is after all!). 'But suppose they fail, forget or fall – what's the Plan B?' Jesus answered, 'I have no other plans. I'm counting on them.' Twenty centuries later, that sentiment of Jesus hasn't changed.

– Tom Cox



This Week (11-17 February)

- 11 Mon** Our Lady of Lourdes; St Gobnait, abbess
- 12 Tue** St Damian
- 13 Wed** St Catherine of Ricci
- 14 Thur** Ss Cyril and Methodius, patrons of Europe
- 15 Fri** St Sigfrid of Vaxjo
- 16 Sat** St Onesimus, bishop and martyr
- 17 Sun** SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Parish of St Anthony's is part of the Diocese of Down and Connor and operates in accordance with the Diocesan Privacy Notice, copies of which are available in porch.



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)



5TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS
Luke 5:1-11

1. Jesus invites Peter to put out the net again, and Peter does so though he thinks it pointless. When have you felt it was pointless to stick with a task, but did so nonetheless and been surprised by results? We never know when our efforts are going to bear fruit.
2. 'Push out into the deep.' The invitation is to go out into unfamiliar waters, where we are not sure what will happen, where we feel uneasy and our safety is not assured. When have you responded positively to that kind of an invitation and got positive results you did not expect?
3. The story gives us a glimpse of what prepared the disciples to follow Jesus. They were helped by the compassion and concern of Jesus (who cured Peter's mother-in-law); attracted by his work and teaching; and witnessed the power of God at work through him. This led them to 'leave everything and follow him'. What has been the story of key decisions or turning points in your life? Who was Jesus for you in those situations?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

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

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 10th February

READERS:

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

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 17th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney
Morning Mass: Martina McCrory Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £765.72, Living Youth £10, Weekly Collection £35, Shrines £71.99

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. This will mean no 9:30am or 11:30 am Mass and would entail the hope that as many as possible be present. If you wish to be present, you would need to be in the church 45 minutes beforehand, and strict timing with a run-through the night before for timing rehearsal. A meeting to prepare for this occasion is being prepared. If interested contact Fr McCann.

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 McGucknien Tel: 02890614567; Email: vocations@downandconnor.org.

Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse—Candle of Atonement. The day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse, as agreed by the Bishops of Ireland, will take place on Fri 15th Feb 2019, just one week before the gathering of Bishops and Religious Superior with Pope Francis in Rome to discuss the safeguarding of minors in the Church. At 10am Mass on 15th Feb in St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast, Bishop Noel will light the diocesan Candle of Atonement, which has been blessed at Knock, and dedicate the Atonement Prayer for use in all parishes in Down and Connor. All are most welcome to this Mass. Over the weekend 16-17 Feb every parish is encouraged to light a Candle of Atonement and to continue to light it at the beginning of all Masses over 23-24 Feb for the success of the meeting in Rome. A simple prayer card will be available, based on the penitential rite prayers by Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families last August. Please remember all those attending the meeting in Rome.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11 Feb. A prayer card and the Pope's message for the 27th World Day of Prayer of the Sick is available in the Porch.

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.

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.

Anam Cara Belfast the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 13th February at 7:20pm in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7XP. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for teas, coffees, etc, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tuesday 12th February or call 02895213120.

Holy Rosary Parish - Sunday Night Bingo starting in the new Parish Centre on Sunday 10th February. The weekly event, run on behalf of Good Shepherd Church by members of Youth Football Club and Bredagh GAC, will raise much needed funds to help pay off the remaining debt for the new Centre and be a great opportunity to meet people and maybe win a few pounds. Doors open at 6.45pm. Light refreshments available.

Candelight Rosary Procession - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. There will be a candelight rosary procession to The Grotto, St. Mary's Church, Chapel Lane, Belfast on Monday 11th February, at 8 p.m to pray for the sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick. The procession commences at the same time as the torchlight procession to the Grotto in Lourdes. All welcome. Procession candles available from 7.45 pm.

Tocatta in Belfast, Saturday 23rd Feb 2019 in Christ the Redeemer church, at 8p m. Tickets £10. Contact 028 90839011

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 McCann PP.