

Parish Newsletter

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Cycle C

17 February 2019
Issue 12

BLESSING OR CURSE?

It's pretty normal after a funeral for a family to gather and chat about their growing up. In my experience, it's usually done with good humour especially when accusations/claims are made about which was the deceased's 'favourite'. One of my most beautiful moments, as the youngest of seven, was (with whatever teenage angst I was going through) being told by one of my parents that yes, I was very much longed for when I was born. For me,

that has always been a blessing and a cause of inner happiness. I have also seen the painful opposite when adult children relate how they were rejected by their parents; it could be by way of neglect, or physical or sexual abuse by a relative or simply something painful that was said: the wounds are many.

I suppose a family can be either a blessing or a curse – which seems contradictory but it does happen.

Today's Readings



Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-4.6
1 Corinthians 15:12.16-20
Luke 6:17.20-26

Next Sunday's Readings



1 Samuel 26:2.7-9.12-13.22-23
Psalm 102:1-4.8.10.12-13
1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Luke 6:27-38

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In today's Gospel, Jesus carefully constructs four parallel blessings or curses. 'Happy' and 'alas' are the exact words he uses. They are the opposite of what we would anticipate. For he says:

*Happy are the poor ...
but woe ('alas') to the rich.
Happy are the hungry ...
but woe to those who are full.
Happy are the weeping ...
but woe to those that are laughing.
Happy are the rejected ...
but woe to those who are accepted.*

What's interesting about it all is that we're not told or encouraged to act in a particular way to earn the blessing or curse ... or warned of consequences if we don't. Jesus is just pronouncing

Reflection

In what ways are you poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, insulted and denounced on account of Jesus? In what ways are you rich, filled, laughing, and spoken well of?

Lesson

Jesus is just pronouncing the facts as it is with no suggestions or dire warning. He shows how life is, both inside and outside of God's kingdom.

Prayer

Lord, form in us the ways of authentic discipleship that we might bring to all we meet the good news of your kingdom.

the facts with no suggestions or warnings as such. He shows how life is, both inside and outside God's kingdom.

We seek many things, in fact, we're always searching. There is a story of a very poor man in a village who had a strange dream that in a far-off city treasure lay under a bridge. He made his way there and found the bridge of his dreams, started searching and attracted the attention of a watchman. So he told him the story – the watchman laughed at him and said he too had a dream of a peasant in a village who had treasure under his stove. But such a thing was so laughable, the watchman declared – it couldn't be true. So the poor man set off home, empty-handed, dug under his stove and found the treasure.

Sometimes the greatest of things, like God's kingdom, is right under your nose, if you have the heart and the humility to receive them.

– Tom Cox

This Week (18-24 February)

- 18 **Mon** St Flavian
- 19 **Tue** St Boniface of Lausanne
- 20 **Wed** St Wulfic
- 21 **Thur** St Peter Damian, bishop and doctor
- 22 **Fri** THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, THE APOSTLE
- 23 **Sat** St Polycarp, bishop and martyr
- 24 **Sun** SEVENTH 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)



6TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 6:17, 20-26

1. We are told that Jesus 'fixed his eyes on the disciples' before speaking. This suggests that he was about to say something that he really wanted them to take in. Surprisingly he then tells them it is no bad thing for us to be poor or hungry. But perhaps you have recognised the truth in what St. Augustine said: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.'

2. 'Blessed are you who weep' is not an encouragement to be miserable. Rather it is an affirmation of the importance of loving relationships in life. We are blessed to have such people in our lives, but there may also be pain. Yet is it not true that the blessing of loving and being loved is worth the price you pay?

3. Jesus said that his followers would be open to opposition and ridicule because of him, and that they are blessed when this happens. Unpleasant it may, but have you not been grateful on those occasions when you had the courage to stand by something that you believed in?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Betty McBride (Mullan Mews), Maureen McGann
Anniversaries: 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, Brigid Curran (Sun 17th Feb at 11:30am), Mary Hughes (Sun 24th Feb at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 17th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blancy

Morning Mass: Martina McCrory Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corcadden

Sun 24th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £523.44, Monthly Stipend £11, Sick & Retired Priests £5, Shrines £82.49

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.

Candle of Atonement. 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. Over the weekend 16-17 Feb every parish is encouraged to light a Candle of Atonement to mirror the one lit by Bishop Treanor in the Cathedral last Friday, 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 is 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.

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.

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.

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

Friends of St Therese (Incorporating Friends of Malawi) Justice and Peace Pilgrimages. Divine Mercy, Poland and Malta in the Footsteps of St Paul. Medjugorje Dates 18-25 May 2019; 21-28 Sept. Price from £459. Divine Mercy, Poland to coincide with the feast of Divine Mercy & St Faustina; Dates 25-30 April 2019; 5-10 Sept 2019. Price from £499. Malta in the Footsteps of St Paul Dates to be confirmed in October and November 2019. Prices to be confirmed. But more information to Daniel Morgan, 028 9024 5547, 07514908666, or daniel.morgan5@btconnect.com.

Pilgrimages (Holy Land and Medjugorje).

Christmas Pilgrimage Group to the Holy Land. ex Dublin 19h - 27th December. Also Holy Land 31st October- 8th November 2019 Taking in Bethlehem, Jerusalem (Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Last Supper Room and Calvary), Mount Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Jericho, River Jordan, Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. ALSO Medjugorje Pilgrimage for Youth Festival 2019 August Bank Holiday Weekend. ex Dublin 7 nights. Both Pilgrimages can be made by instalments Contact James Treacy 0860572216.

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.

Orchardville FUSION project. The project reaches out to young people in or from East Belfast who have disengaged for their individual reason and are currently not in full-time employment, education or training. We are looking to recruit young people for this new local project in East Belfast. We will provide highly personalised mentoring/support sessions, individualised training (which involves personal development, employability and good relations) and work placements. Regarding the hours, the work placement and the training programme, the project is very flexible - could be anything from a couple of hours to five days a week. For more information 028 9073 2326.

Upcoming events at Tobar Mhuire. Ash Wednesday Day of Prayer. Our annual day of prayer is dedicated to prisoners; their families, and those who care for them. Chapel open all day for Adoration followed by Prayer Service at 7.00pm. Talk by Fr Ciaran Dallat (Prison Chaplain) at 7.30pm. All welcome. Wednesday 13th March: First of our Lenten Talk Series: The Beatitudes of Pope Francis with Dr Aidan Donaldson at 7.00pm. All welcome. Voluntary donation. For more information contact Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre, 16a Downpatrick Road Crossgar, Downpatrick, County Down, BT30 9EQ. 028 44 830242. www.tobarmhuirecrossgar.com

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.