

Parish Newsletter

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 24 February 2019
Cycle C | Issue 13



TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS

It is striking that, at a time when technology has rendered distance inconsequential, we seem to see the rise of a fear of 'the other' in debates about migration and immigration. Some want walls (preferably physical) or at least some barrier to keep them out. They see this as essential to maintaining order and the rule of law. Ironically, they wish to have complete freedom to move around for

themselves, while at the same time restricting it for 'others'.

Another view holds that, in the name of mercy, compassion and justice, we should welcome all and provide for their housing, health and education.

Has it come to this – that it is a case of either/or not both/and? Surely law, justice, order, compassion and

Today'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

Next Sunday's Readings



Ecclesiasticus (Sir) 27:4-7
Psalm 91:2-3,13-16
1 Corinthians 15:54-58
Luke 6:39-45

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fairness are sisters, not polar opposites. The message of Jesus is very clear: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.' In fact, it is more than a 'message' – a suggestion – it's, as our American friends would call it, an 'executive order'. It is the hallmark of the Christian. In the First Reading – in a striking image – David, who is being hunted by a jealous King Saul, finds himself with the King at his mercy. David does not strike when the opportunity comes. He may have the upper hand, but it is not a time to deal a low blow on a defenceless 'enemy'.

Immigration will always be an important part of our political debate, but we must remain vigilant in the way

we frame the issues and the rhetoric we use to tackle the issue. There is no place in the debate for prejudice, xenophobia, and the appeal to baser instincts of fear of the stranger.

We are living through an age of immense change, and change creates insecurities that are easily translated into suspicion and hate. There is a genuine debate to be had about immigration, but it must be conducted with wisdom, generosity and restraint. It's the revolution of kindness ...

It all comes down to just how kind are you? When was the last time you did something kind for someone in your family – a cup of tea, a job done (without being badgered or asked), a place offered at the supermarket checkout, a car let through. Kind hearts are quietly but powerfully kind and give without any thought of return. Kindness is also a gift to yourself – for we cannot give in kindness without first being kind to ourselves. ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

What has been your most recent experience of receiving in return what you have measured out?

Lesson

An authentic Christian is open to a wider world of love, lending, mercy, forgiveness and more readily responds to the needs of others.

Prayer

Lord, give us the strength to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, to bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us.



This Week (25 February–3 March)

- 25 Mon** St Ethelbert of Kent
- 26 Tue** St Alexander of Alexandria
- 27 Wed** St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 28 Thur** St Oswald of Worcester, bishop
- 1 Fri** St David, Patron of Wales, bishop
- 2 Sat** St Chad, bishop
- 3 Sun** EIGHTH 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)



7TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR—YEAR C

SEEKING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 6:27-38

1. Our natural tendency when attacked is to protect ourselves; when we are attacked, we attack

back. We respond to an angry word with another, or to a blow by hitting back. Here, Jesus suggests that at times there may be another way to act. What has been your experience of retaliation? Has it been life-giving? Have you experience of another way of acting?

2. When we do good to another, it can sometimes be in return for what we have received. At other times it can be done in the hope of getting something back. Or we may do it simply for the sake of doing good without any strings attached. Jesus suggests that this is when we are at our best. Recall your experience of these different ways of giving and celebrate the occasions when you gave without expectation of return.

3. Jesus proposes the generosity of God as a model for our generosity, and says that the generous will be rewarded. Perhaps you have experienced rewards, even in this life, from generous behaviour.

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Betty McBride (Mullan Mews), Maureen McGann
Anniversaries: Brigid & John Rooney, Ernie Young, Michael Gallagher Snr, Seamus Boyle, Brigid Murray, Betty McParland, Michael Gallagher Jnr, Brigid Curran, Mary Hughes (Sun 24th Feb at 11:30am), Terence McCann, Susan Galalagher (Sun 10th Mar at 11:30am), Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 17th Mar at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 24th February

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 3rd March (RADIO BROADCAST MASS at 10.15am)

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: To be confirmed

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: To be confirmed



COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Sick & Retired Priests £440.25, Weekly Collection £330.80, Shrines £81.87

BBC Radio Ulster Broadcast Mass. As part of the 80th Anniversary year of celebrations for St Anthony's Church, there will be a RADIO BROADCAST MASS ON SUNDAY 3RD MARCH AT 10:15AM SHARP. Please note there will be NO 9:30AM MASS IN POLISH, AND NO 11:30AM MASS IN ENGLISH that Sunday. We encourage you to attend. Doors will be closed at 10am with NO ADMISSION AFTER THIS TIME. Please follow instructions from stewards. Mass will finish at 11am at which time doors will open again.

Candle of Atonement. We continue to light the Candle of Atonement this weekend to mirror the one lit by Bishop Treanor in the Cathedral, in prayerful solidarity with victims and survivors of Abuse, and for success for the Meeting in Rome to coordinate the Safeguarding of Minors in the Catholic Church. 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.

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.

"The West Belfast Historical Society is meeting on Friday the 8th of March 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 March talk is entitled "THE LUSITANIA". The guest speaker will be "Ms. Coleen Waters". All are Welcome to Attend and Refreshments will be provided.

Job Vacancies at St. Vincent's Centre, Willowfield Drive, Belfast have two temporary job vacancies to be filled asap. 1. Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistant: 30 hours per week. 2. Clerical Officer: 30 hours per week. For further details please contact bdonegan641@c2kni.net.

'Strictly Come Dancing' in aid of the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Join us for a superb evening of fun and entertainment in Carryduff Parish Centre on the 15th March 2019 at 7.30pm. Ticket: £15 for Adults, £7.50 for children. Can be ordered through the Carryduff Parish Office on 028 9081 2238 or drumbo@downandconnor.org.

Parish Pilgrimage To Rome, Assisi & Cascia. Spiritual Directors- Fr Conor Mc Grath Fr Dominic Mc Grattan. Due to cancellations spaces have become available. Including Divine Mercy Sunday in Rome. 6 Night Pilgrimage to Assisi, Cascia, Rome & Vatican City. 27 April-03 May 2019. Package price from £945.00 pps. Single rooms now available. Application form available in the Parish Office on 90812238 opt 2.

Lenten Days and Holy Week Retreat at Dromantine - 2019. 16th March 'A Lenten Encounter: Looking Up and Reaching Out' led by Fr. Dúmian Bresnahan SMA 10am - 5pm Cost £25 lunch included. 30th March 'A Lenten Experience: Called to Renewal' led by Fr. John Gallagher SMA 10am - 5pm £25 lunch included. Holy Week Retreat Wed 17th April at 5pm - Sunday 21st at 11am. The SMA Community invites you to join them in reflectively celebrating the Easter Triduum, beginning with the Seder Meal. £250 full board. Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry BT34 1RH. Booking: Tel. 028 30821964 or admin@dromantineconference.com.

Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). Fr John O'Donoghue, MAfr, will be visiting St Anthony's Parish on the weekend of March 30/31st for the mission appeal. They are one of the groups who make a direct appeal to the people present at mass to contribute to our missionary efforts in a second collection. We look forward to welcoming Fr John and we hope you will be as generous as you can.

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.