




ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

I heard of one third level professor who gave the customary evaluation sheet at the end of the term. One student response caught the eye: 'I liked the course, but felt the professor put too much responsibility for learning on the students.' With the Gospel of today, we can all feel a bit like this. Because we are being asked to do a complete change of mindset - to replace the law of vengeance with the law of love. It's a tall order! In this, we are all learning. 'I'll larn ya' was our childhood way of

telling someone that, like it or lump it - they were going to be taught a lesson




FINDING THE JOY IN OUR SACRAMENTAL RELATIONSHIP

The joy of courting couples is obvious for all to see. Over the years, excitement can lessen, our independent attitudes strengthen; competition and jealousy creep in. Today Jesus calls us to '...turn the other cheek...'. In confidence share, in trust listen, in faith forgive, so that our spouse will grow in self-worth and the sparkle of joy will reignite.

- *Marriage Matters*

www.twainoneflesh.org.uk

Next Sunday's Readings



Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7
Psalm 50:3-6.12-14.17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

by us! But if the student isn't ready to learn, does any real teaching take place?

It is too easy to blame and complain rather than encourage and support. Even St Paul seems to hint that this change to the law of love from vengeance will be seen as foolishness by many. But 'the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God,' according to the second reading. From the perspective of a child 'love' is a varied thing: from loving family and friends, to loving a particular sport or food, and the whole awkward teenage phase of falling in love. In public life, not just schools, we have a big focus on opposing bullying. How do we genuinely care about someone when they don't 'deserve' it and we don't feel it? This is a difficult but important lesson to learn, that understanding where another comes from is not surrender. But, even when

the feelings aren't there for the one who hurts, we are still called to treat others with kindness and respect. Our world seems to subsist, however, on the whole idea of getting even, tit for tat, to have the upper hand, the last word - you cross me and I'll cross you or, as Jesus put it, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Mere subsistence is not what the Gospel desires for us - it wants us to thrive and flourish and we can only do that if we let go of the desire for revenge. And that includes muttering about 'karma', hinting that some dark force will get you back for the wrong you did. That's not how God acts (it's not even a Christian concept) and neither should you. Maybe our spiritual school report will say 'could improve' or maybe it will commend us for 'great effort'. By the way we live today, we shape that result. ■

- Tom Cox



Reflection

Ponder the depth of reverence for others in the new teaching of Jesus, to never inflict evil on another.



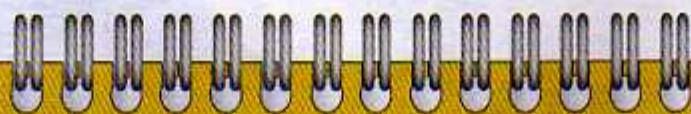
Lesson

The Lord is compassion and love.



Prayer

Lord, make me also slow to anger and rich in mercy to others. Crown my life with love and compassion. Amen.



This Week (24 Feb - 1 March)

- 24 M St Walburga
- 25 T St Ethelbert of Kent
- 26 W ASH WEDNESDAY
- 27 T St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
- 28 F St Oswald of Worcester, bishop
- 29 S SATURDAY after Ash Wednesday
- 1 S FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.
Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthony@downandconnor.org,
 henrymccann@hotmail.com, **Website:** www.saintanthony.co.uk
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)



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well

Who can turn the other cheek, give away their coat, go two miles instead of one, love enemies and pray for all those who persecute them? Not us.

Not without you, Lord. As you did from your cross, let us wage love, not war. Help us go way beyond nonviolence. Give us generosity of spirit. We want to love as you do.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Helena McElhennan, Rosaleen Murray, Mary Begley, Jimmy Doran, Fr Gerard McConville, Martin Hourican
Anniversaries: Patrick Gunn, Ernest Young, Betty McParland, Brigid Murray, Brigid Curran, Mickey Gallagher (Sun 23rd Feb at 11:30am), Mary Hughes (Sun 1st March at 11:30am), Susan Gallagher (Sun 8th March at 11:30am), Fr Patrick Gallagher (Sun 15th March at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 23rd Feb 2020

READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Carmen Blaney
 Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
 Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 1st Mar 2020

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen
 Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
 Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contributions to last week's collection: Sick & Retired Priests £482.97, Weekly Collection £271.52, Shrines £94.24

TROCAIRE LENT 2020 With families living under constant threat of conflict, drought and land grabs, women hold their families together, battling enormous odds to provide for their children. Lent 2020 highlights the different ways in which women overcome the odds to keep their families safe from harm. This Lent, we are focusing on two families, one in Kenya and one in Honduras, to highlight how mothers work to protect their families and communities from the devastating impact of climate change and from the

actions of corporations. Madris and Angela are two such women. We think of them and women like them all over the world this Lent. For further information visit: <https://www.trocaire.org>. Please pick up your Trocaire pack from the Church Porch.

Times of Masses for Ash Wednesday 26th February:
 Polish: 9am & 7pm. English: 10:30am

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service, St. Mary's Chapel Lane, Preacher Rev Ken Newell. Ashes will be distributed during the service for those who would like to receive them. Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 5.30pm.

Lenten Programme at St Anthony's:
Stations of the Cross after the Friday Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (6th, 13th, 20th March, 3rd April). A **Prayerful Reflection** on the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross Tues 24th March at 8pm.

NO GREATER LOVE This Lent why not travel with Jesus as he enters into his passion? 'No Greater Love' is a Lenten programme, based around a series of five short films shot on location in the Holy Land. Best selling

author Edward Sri, guides us through the last hours of Christ's life, as we walk step-by-step with Jesus through the scriptures, from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. A number of parishes in the Pastoral Area are providing the course:

- A) St Colmcille's (Ballyhackamore) Parish Hall, two options:**
 Option 1: Wednesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm: starting 4th March and 11th, 18th, 25th March & 1st April.
 Option 2: Or Fridays 10.15am - 11.30am: starting 6th March and 13th, 20th, 27th March & 3rd April. Contact 028 90654157
- B) St Malachy's Parish Centre (beside the Church) Date of the First Session - Thursday 27th February Time: 7 - 8.30pm Tea & Coffee will be provided during the session To book a place and for further information please contact: Fr. McGinnity or Parish Office- 028 90321713**
- C) St Bernard's Primary School, Tuesday Evenings 25th February beginning 8.15pm-9:30pm. (No meeting on 17th March) Contact 028 90642446**

Lenten Pioneer Pledge. Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent, to pray for or make a sacrifice for, someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem. Please consider taking the short term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life. Register your pledge with local Pioneers and say the daily prayer.

PRAYER: "I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."

The Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on Friday 28 February 2020, the first Friday of Lent. The diocese will mark this day with a Mass in St Patrick's Church, Donegall Street, Belfast, at 1 pm on Friday 28 February.

A Lenten Soup & Bread lunch will be available again this year in the Parish Centre at the Good Shepherd Church, Ormeau Road throughout Lent. It will be served each Sunday between 12.30 - 2.30pm beginning 1st March and ending on 5th April. A sale of ceramic crafts, made by a member of our parish community, will also be available. All voluntary donations/funds raised from the sale will go towards TROCAIRE, Mary's Meals and Sharing Fair. Please join us to help support this crucial work.

Lent at Tobar Mhuire:
Ash Wednesday. A conversation on forgiveness between Alan McBride and Jude Whyte, two people who been faced with the challenge of forgiving those who perpetrated awful deeds upon their loved ones. Session begins at 7.30pm. Voluntary donation towards Belfast Welcome Centre.

Lenten Scripture Course with Fr. Oliver Treanor. A four week series on the Wednesdays of Lent, in which Fr. Oliver Treanor invites us to see the meaning of the Cross in God's plan and as a way of achieving the fullness of life. Begins at 7.30pm and concludes at 9.00pm sharp. Voluntary Donation.

Take Off Your Shoes - You are Standing on Holy Ground! A three week course, March 1st; March 8th; March 15th, to explore the beauty of Eucharistic Adoration and ways of developing best practice in our personal lives and in our parishes. Led by: Fr Tom Scanlon CP. Time: 3.00pm - 5.30pm each day. Voluntary Donation.

World Day of Prayer 2020, Praying with Zimbabwe, on Friday 6th March at 8pm. Join Cregagh Presbyterian congregation to pray for the people of Zimbabwe. Theme "Rise! Take your mat and walk." A service for everyone, all welcome.

DIOCESAN VOCATION WEEKEND Have you ever considered the possibility that God is calling you to the priesthood? If so, take this opportunity to gather with other men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood. This retreat will create the time and space to help you discern God's calling in your life. The retreat will take place in Drumalis Retreat Centre, from Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March 2020. If you wish to attend this retreat or would like further information contact: Fr. Kevin McGuckien, 23 Hannahstown Hill, Belfast, BT17 0LT (02890614567) Email:k.mcguickien@downandconnor.org.