

Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 14 January 2018
Year B | Issue 7

SEARCHING IN THE DEPTHS

Perhaps it's ageing or an overly busy mind, but for more times than I care to admit, I have found myself entering a room with a busy look, skid to a halt and wonder, "Wait. What exactly am I here for?" The mind is a funny thing, well – my mind is. When I'm mildly frazzled looking for my keys (again!), I think of having a biscuit. It does absolutely nothing about the present problem (missing keys/phone) but it does make things a bit more pleasant. Once I

had two phones (family and public) and when asked why, would answer with a straight face, "So that when one was missing, I can ring it to locate it." Nobody batted an eyelid at that answer.

Anyhow, as my mind unravels a bit, and names don't come as readily to hand – it's perhaps no bad thing in a way to be stopped in your tracks and wonder what the heck you're actually doing. I know plenty of people who

Today's Readings



1 Samuel 3:3-10.19
Psalm 39:2.4.7-10
1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20
John 1:35-42

Next Sunday's Readings



Jonah 3:1-5.10
Psalm 24:4-9
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

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don't even do that, who will happily mow through tasks at work, but go into a complete panic if asked the "what do you want?" question of Jesus. We all need that nudge, perhaps even to stop and pay attention. What are you looking for?

In line with that, it was interesting to read of a celebrity auction recently. In October last in Jerusalem, a 1922-handwritten-note on a Tokyo hotel notepaper reached 1.5 million dollars in an auction. It was signed to a hotel staff member by way of a tip. The author? Albert Einstein. On it was written: "A quiet and modest life brings more joy than a pursuit of success bound with constant unrest." Albert Einstein wrote this, not long after he had been told he was nominated for the Nobel Prize for physics. Even

today we use "I'm not Einstein" defensively when we've reached the limit of our logic or knowledge. Isn't it interesting that in the face of supreme achievement with a Nobel Prize – he wrote about joy rather than material success? Now, there's a man who valued not just the pursuit of knowledge, but the wonder of living and the endless questions that raises. In a letter to fellow physicist David Bohm, he wrote, "If God has created the world his primary worry was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us. I feel it strongly since fifty years."

In our age, we have made "following" someone quite passive, just a click on a computer mouse or smartphone. For Jesus, it meant and means something much deeper – actual following as we walk the walk and put some shape into answering the eternal question: "What do you want?"

– Tom Cox

Reflection

In what ways is Jesus "Teacher" and "the Anointed One of God" for you?

Lesson

Jesus is a teacher and the anointed one from God.

Prayer

Lord, help us to cherish silence that we may hear you and give us a pure heart that we may see you in every experience.

This Week (15–21 January)

- 15 **Mon** St Ita, virgin
- 16 **Tue** St Fursa, abbot and missionary
- 17 **Wed** St Anthony, abbot
- 18 **Thur** St Magaret of Hungary
- 19 **Fri** St Wulfstan, bishop
- 20 **Sat** St Fabian and St Sebastian, martyrs
- 21 **Sun** THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
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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)



SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:35-42

1. John pointed the disciples towards Jesus as the one they should follow. Remember the people in your life who have pointed you in a new and life-giving direction? Perhaps in some cases this may have involved directing you away from your association with them – e.g., leaving home, changing jobs, etc.

2. Jesus invited the disciples to come and see how he lived. How have you come to learn how Jesus lived, and what he was looking for in life? How has this attracted you to follow him?

3. What is your experience of gathering in small groups to learn to live like Jesus by listening to the gospel together? Where two or three are gathered in his name, Jesus is there in the midst of them.

4. Andrew did not keep the good news to himself but invited his brother to join him in following Jesus. What is your experience of receiving, or giving, an invitation to join in some worthwhile venture?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Canon Hugh Starkey, Fr Peter Forde, Gerald Murray, Jim Harte, Gerald Wilson

Anniversaries: Rose Meenagh, John O'Connor, John Higney, Minnie Tannev, Claire Burke (née Kelly), Michael Gallagher (Sun 14th Jan at 11:30am), Patrick Gunn (1st Anniv Sun 21st Jan at 11:30am), Jim & Kathleen McCann

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 14th January

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Margaret Woods

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 21st January

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen & Maria Murphy

Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £756.31, Christmas Collection £52, Weekly Collection £50, Shrines £99.01.

Anonymous Donation: Many thanks to a parishioner who gave an anonymous donation of £2,400.00. Your gift is greatly appreciated.

If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. Please consider signing a Gift Aid form so that the parish can claim back the Tax from the HMRC on your contributions. Your own Tax is not affected.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have missed sending in your collection envelope donations, One Envelope Per Collection (eg Weekly or Monthly) will suffice. For example there is no need to put weekly envelopes inside each other with your donation. Discard the missed envelope(s) and place your total donation into ONE envelope. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE ALSO: The Old £1 coin will no longer be accepted in collection envelopes or candelabra/shrines.

Diocesan Directory with Lists of Clergy, Parish details & Mass times, Religious Orders, Diocesan Bodies, etc. available in the sacristy, Cost £4.

Flu Advice: Medics at the Mater Hospital have apprised the Diocese of the high risk of a strain of the flu virus which has yet to peak. As a precautionary measure parishioners are encouraged to use disinfecting hand

gels and hand wash soaps to minimise risk of infection. The customary "sign of peace" handshake exchanged during Mass is suspended until the risk of infection is significantly reduced. Similarly, the sharing of the Chalice (with communicants or with Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass should be temporarily suspended, for the same reason.

The World Meeting of Families—The Amoris Programme – 'Let's Talk Family'. Training of the group leaders, consisting of two evening sessions, will take place at three venues across the diocese. Trainee leaders can attend training sessions at whichever venue suits them. Training of Group Leaders 2018:

1. All Saints Parish Centre, Ballymena, 4 Broughshane Road, BT43 7DX. Two training sessions – Wednesday 10th and 17th January, 7-9.30pm.

2. St. Malachy's Parish Centre, 24 Alfred Street, Belfast, BT2 8EN. Two training sessions – Thursday 11th and 18th January, 7-9.30pm.

3. St. Michael's Parish Centre, 99 Irish Street, Downpatrick, BT30 6BS.

Two training sessions – Wednesday 24th January and 7th February, 7-9.30pm. If you are interested please give your names to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

St Joseph's College Open Night, Thursday 18th January 2018, 7.00pm to 9.00pm. Principal's Address at 7.00pm. All Primary 6/7 pupils, prospective 6th form students and their parents are welcome.

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock Open Morning, Saturday 13th January 2018, Year 7 Pupils and Parents welcome, 9:15am—12:30pm. Principal's Address 9:30am, and 11:00am. Prospective Year 13 students are also welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council. Since there was a low turnout of attendees at the last meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council last Wednesday, the meeting has been postponed until Thursday 18th January 2018 at 7pm in the John Paul II room.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: A Journey in Faith. If you — need a deeper understanding of your Catholic faith / are seeking to return to celebrating your faith / would like to explore and enquire into the Catholic faith with a view possibly of Baptism... please come along to the Gartan Room, St Colmcille's Parochial Hall, 191 Upper Newtownards Road Belfast, BT4 3JB, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, to take the next step with others, where you may find example, encouragement and inspiration to help you along on your journey of exploration. Enquiries to Noeleen 07879 498131.

Balancing the load: Work related stress and resilience, for health practitioners working in caring services, Tues 13th Feb, 1:30-4:30pm, in Seminar Room 1, Education and Research Centre, NI Hospice, 74 Somerton Road, Belfast BT15 3LH. Facilitator Dr Sharon McCloskey, cost £25. For more information contact Anne Rogan, Education Administrator at anne.rogan@nihospice.org or by phone: 028 90 781836.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th – 25th January. This year's inter-Diocesan Services will be held in St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Belfast, on Tuesday, 23rd January at 7 pm, St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh, on Wednesday, 24th January at 7.30 pm. The theme for 2018 is "That All May Be Free" and the preacher at both Services will be Fr Kieran McDermott, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Ecumenism in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Doing Public Theology—Applying Social Ethics to Public Life. Programme at Drumalis over 6 Sunday afternoons in 2018, delivered by Dr Johnston McMaster, commencing Sunday, 21 January from 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Course Contribution: £40. To register or for further details, please contact Drumalis by phone or in person during office hours (Mon – Sat, 9 am – 5 pm) – tel 028 28272196 or 028 28276455. A non-refundable and non-transferable deposit of £20 is necessary to confirm your place on the course.

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 PP.