



Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 21 January 2018
Year B | Issue 8

A LIFE CALL

I doubt very much if the two sets of brothers Simon and Andrew and the Z-brothers James and John thought that their typical Galilee day tending to their fishing boats would be related 2,000 years later. After all, I think we'd be shocked if the events of our everyday lives were similarly recounted. Perhaps it's no harm to be a little aware that among the daily choices of this day, the seeds of eternity are sown.

But this was the day that Jesus began. Come to think of it, he was the only teacher I know who actually sought students. It was and usually is the reverse – students apply to a school and enrol. And it has to be said that things were not good in the family of Jesus at that time. His cousin John the Baptist has just been arrested, arrested for doing precisely what Jesus is about to do. Uncertain times and a very unclear future. But the selling line of Jesus is clear (Come...follow me).

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 94:1-2.6-9
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

(Continued on back page)

We will never know what was it that overpowered these men away from their work, their livelihood, even (for James and John) away from their father, Zebedee. We can be pretty sure that the local talk was lively on that one – “Imagine those two scuts leaving poor Zeb and him poorly and in need of help.” Or words to that effect.

Faith is a strange thing. Some have it – others don't, it's gift in one way, but more a grace and certainly not a commodity that we can simply “hand on”.

No more than Jonah (First Reading) the call is urgent and it's for NOW, not later. Jonah knew a thing about fish too. He ended up in the belly of one, after

Reflection

What do I feel when Jesus unexpectedly calls me to be with him and share his mission?

Lesson

The disciples are called to be with Jesus and to share his mission.

Prayer

Lord, guide us in our work:
be the words we speak and
the good news we live.
Amen.

all. But while he had no nets, he did cast the net of repentance as instructed. The Galilee fishermen were called to cast the net of faith.

The nets of Galilee have come down the centuries to us right here today, probably a bit ragged and torn with many holes left unmended from immense storms hitting the Church's nets.

We wonder if we have the faith ourselves, and strength to cast them one more time into the deep. To cast them among those we do know who, for any number of reasons, are no longer with us in prayer. Faith is a strange thing. Some have it – others don't, it's gift in one way, but more a grace and certainly not a commodity that we can simply “hand on”. All we can do for our part is to continue in our stumbling way after the Master who says “Follow me.”

– Tom Cox

This Week (22–28 January)

- 22 **Mon** St Vincent, deacon
- 23 **Tue** St John the Almsgiver
- 24 **Wed** St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor
- 25 **Thur** CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE
- 26 **Fri** St Timothy and St Titus, bishops
- 27 **Sat** St Angela Merici, Virgin
- 28 **Sun** FOURTH 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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 1:14-20

1. 'The time is fulfilled' – this is a decisive moment in the life of Jesus. His public ministry is about to begin. Recall turning points in your own life when something new happened and with hindsight you can say the time was ripe for it to happen, 'the time was fulfilled'.
2. 'Repent and believe the good news'. Jesus was not preaching a new doctrine, he was proclaiming an event that had already happened. The time has come. Jesus called for a change of heart as a response to the good news of the gospel message. A new way of understanding God leads to a conversion in how we relate to God, a change of heart. A growth in awareness of who we are can lead us to a new level of self-confidence, another change of heart. Can you recall times when 'good news' led you to a change of heart?
3. The Spirit of God who was at work in Jesus calling the disciples continues to work in our day and in our lives. That is why the gospel message is one of good news. When has your understanding of the gospel message led you to a different style of life? Who was the Jesus person through whom the call came to you? To whom have you been a Jesus person in this way?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Gerald Murray, Jim Harte, Gerald Wilson, Fr Gregory Cormican, Eileen Irvine (sister of Kay Curran—funeral in St Colmcilles, Ballyhackamore Mon 22nd Jan at 12noon), Theresa Curran (cousin of Seamus whose ashes were buried on Sat 20th Jan)

Anniversaries: John Higney, Minnie Tanney, Claire Burke (née Kelly), Michael Gallagher, Catherine, Patrick & Tommy Bell and Tommy Junior (Sat 20th Jan at 6:30pm), Patrick Gunn (1st Anniv Sun 21st Jan at 11:30am), Jim & Kathleen McCann

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 28th January

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & ShaunaMullen
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £707.97, Monthly Stipend £44, Christmas Collection £1, Shrines £73.12.

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: last training session:

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.

Local Women's World Day of Prayer will take place in St Anthony's Church on Friday 5th March. Organisation meeting will take place in the Pope St John Paul II room on Tues 23rd January at 7:30pm

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.

St Joseph's College 25th Anniversary Celebrations. As part of our 25th celebrations, St Joseph's College will be open for past pupils, parents and staff from 2-4pm on Sunday, 28th January 2018. Come along and revisit! Light Refreshments will be served.

Meeting for Returned Lay Missionaries & Volunteers. The next meeting for returned volunteers & lay missionaries who have worked overseas will take place on Wednesday 31st Jan at 7.00 pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Glenview St, off Oldpark Rd, Belfast. All are welcome. For more info email jim.farrell@amri.ie or phone/text + 353 83 8422468.

St. Brigid's Day Lecture 2018, by Fr. Paul Murray O.P. "Anxious hearts and wounded lives: The place of the New Sacred." in St. Brigid's Parish Centre on Thursday, 1st February at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Fr Paul Murray is an Irish Dominican priest, poet, author and professor. He was born in Newcastle, Co. Down, and is a past pupil of St. Malachy's College, Belfast. His brother, Fr. Michael Murray, is a priest in Down and Connor. Fr Paul presently lives in Rome and lectures in the Angelicum University. He was a friend and adviser to Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Diocesan Vocation Weekend. Is God calling you from your family to serve His family? Have you ever asked Jesus what he wants from you? Perhaps He wants you to serve as a priest in His Church. 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 reflect on what vocation Jesus is calling you to. The retreat will take place in Drumalis Retreat Centre, from Friday 16th – Sunday 18th February 2018. 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.

Candles for the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas—2nd Feb), can be ordered for the sacristy and will be blessed on the feast for use at home or in the church