

# Parish Newsletter

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD | 6 January 2019  
Cycle C | Issue 06



## PRAYING FOR THE WANDERER

There is a lovely tradition in parts of Europe of marking the lintel or doorpost of households with chalk and a blessing to mark the visit of the Magi (traditionally called Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) with the letters 20+C+M+B+19 –the coming year of 2019 with the initial letters of Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar between the 20 and 19. The markings are still visible some months afterwards. In one place, some three months after the January 6th marking, a visiting son

remarked that robbers had marked out his parents' house for a robbery! In fairness, we live and journey in different times compared to the Magi.

The image of the journey is often used to describe our mortal lives. We talk of making our way in life, or life-mapping. When you think of it, a journey always presses onward; we cannot return by the way we came but must always go another way.

### Today's Readings



Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 71:1-2.7-8.10-13  
Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6  
Matthew 2:1-12

### Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11  
Psalm 103:1-4.24-30  
Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7  
Luke 3:15 16.21-22

Epiphany in the Irish tradition was reckoned as a time apart. People would light 12 Rush candles for the coming year and burn them. There was the alarming tradition in some places that each family member took one (large families – you see) and whichever burnt out first – that person would die in the coming year. Of course, the 12th Night was Nollaig na mBan or ‘Women’s Christmas.’ I was never convinced of this supposed custom of the men-folk of Ireland turning into a Jamie Oliver type chef overnight and looking after the kitchen on that day. There is some evidence of ‘rambling’ however – single men intent on marriage would ‘target’ homes of single ladies on the Epiphany night. Not to mention another traditional belief that animals could speak on Christmas Night – a tribute to their role on that First Christmas in the stable – and that on the 12th night water would turn to

wine. Mind you it was thought to be very unlucky to try and watch it take place.

They are only folk traditions but they each remind us that in this new year life returns to the earth and to every human being. I smile when people talk of removing the Christian faith from Ireland – it’s in our very marrow, not just our place-names and customs, even if only half-remembered.

No doubt People will map out their own path this year – it could be in make up or break up, welcoming a birth of a child, of a new family in marriage – all the twists and turns that 2019 will take. It’s worth remembering that when the three wise visitors came to Bethlehem – shepherds, the poorest of the poor were there before them. There was no ‘cleaning up’ an area for this most Royal of visits of the Christ-child. Everyone is welcome, for God, here, is the great equalizer. Everyone is afforded a place, not just kings but shepherds also.

– Tom Cox

## Reflection

Let us reflect on the contrast between Herod and the gentile Wise Men, and shepherds.

## Lesson

God calls all people, of every race and nation, to recognise Jesus as their Lord and do him homage.

## Prayer

Teach us to be truly wise, to be patient in the face of trials and to be courageous on the long

## This Week (7-13 January)

- 7 Mon** St Raymond of Penyafort, priest
- 8 Tue** St Thorfinn, bishop
- 9 Wed** St Adrian of Canterbury, abbot
- 10 Thur** St Peter Orseolo, hermit
- 11 Fri** St Silvanus of Amiens
- 12 Sat** St Benet Biscop & St Aelred of Rievaulx
- 13 Sun** BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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



**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)

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS  
 Matthew 2:1-12

1. The magi came from the east, hoping to meet Jesus and guided by a star. On your life's journey what are the hopes that inspire you, and what stars guide your steps? Name them for yourself.
2. The magi travelled together. Who have been your companions on life's journey? What has it been like when you have realized that you had companionship along the road? What made you conscious of that companionship? How was it demonstrated?
3. The magi lost sight of the star for a while. What clouds obscure the star that guides your life? Think of those to whom you have turned to get a renewed sense of direction. Perhaps some, like Herod, gave bad advice, but others were wise guides. Remember with particular gratitude those who warned you about dangers on the road and helped you set off with confidence on the right road again.
4. Eventually the magi had the joy of meeting Jesus. In the Epiphany we celebrate God made visible to all humanity. What encounters have you had in life that left you with the sense that God was in what had happened? How did these meetings help you as you, like the magi, 'returned to your own country'?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Christopher Nellis (Month's Mind St Olcan's Church, Armoyle, at 7 pm on Monday, 7th January 2019)  
**Anniversaries:** Marie Matthews, Minnie Tanney, Patrick Joseph Greenan, Jim McCann, Eddie & Eileen Doherty, Stuart Wright, John O'Connor, John Higney, Claire Kelly (Fri 11th January at 7pm), Eileen & James Irvine (Sun 13th at 11:30am), Patrick Gunn (Sun 20th at 11:30am).

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 6th January 2019  
**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Carmel Blaney  
 Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran  
**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
 Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 13th January 2019  
**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Phyllis Mc Grillen  
 Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Margaret Woods  
**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
 Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

*New Rotas are available in the Sacristy  
 St Paul Missals for Readers available in the sacristy*

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £639.95, Christmas Collection £5, Shrines £469.38.

**Carol Service.** The Liturgical Season of Christmas continues until the Feast of the Baptism of The Lord (Sun 13th January) when the Parish Pastoral Council will present a joint English-Polish Carol Service at 5:30pm followed by mince pies and refreshments. All welcome.

**Four Corners Festival** the Festival runs from January 30 to February 10. The theme is Scandalous Forgiveness. The aim of the Festival is "to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all". The keynote speaker, Fr Gregory Boyle SJ, from Los Angeles, founder of Homeboys Industries, the largest gang intervention and rehabilitation

programme in the world, at the Skainos Centre, Newtownards Road. Pope Francis pays tribute to him in the Pope's most recent book "Sharing – the Wisdom of Time" writing: "Greg speaks to us about the utter graciousness of God that frees us from the false ideas about him that get formed in our minds."  
 Morning Service from the Chapel of St Mary's University College, Belfast, Fr Boyle preaching.  
 New Irish Choir and Orchestra in a celebration of Outrageous Forgiveness at St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.  
 Canon David Porter, chief of staff to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr Nicola Brady, general secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, speaking at the concluding event of the festival at Clonard Monastery, Belfast. For more information visit Website : 4cornersfestival.com. Twitter @4cornersbelfast. Hashtag #4CORNERS2019. Facebook @4cornersfestival.

**Down & Connor Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima**, 15th Aug 2019, 7 nights, led by Bishop Noel Treanor. £715 per person sharing. Pilgrimage directors, Fr Gerard McCloskey PP and Fr Sean Gilmore PP. For further details contact Joe Catney, 028 90714001 or 07776425631. or see poster in Porch.

**Dominican College Fortwilliam Open Day:** takes place on Saturday 19th January 2019 from 9.30am to 1.00pm. Primary 7 girls and their parents are most welcome, as are students wishing to transfer to Dominican College for A-level studies. Principal's Address: 9.30 and 11.00 am.

**Our Lady & St Patrick's College, Knock Open Morning.** Year 7 pupils and parents are welcome to an Open Morning on Saturday 19th Jan 9:15am-12:30pm. Principal's Address 9:30am and 11am. Prospective Year 13 students also welcome. For more information see poster in porch

**Catholic Schools Week 2019.** Catholic Schools Week will run from 27th January to 3rd February 2019. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: Celebrating the Work of Our Local Catholic Schools. The themes for the individual days very much describe the faith life of a Catholic school.

**Koinonia John the Baptist—Jesus Heals:** As we begin this new year it is an opportunity to entrust whatever we're carrying to Jesus our healer, Saviour and friend. In collaboration with St. John's parish, Koinonia John the Baptist Ireland invite you to join us for a special moment of prayer in Saint John's Church on Wednesday 16th January from 7pm-9.30pm. The evening will be guided by Br. Darren O'Reilly and local Koinonia members from the surrounding parishes. It will conclude with a cuppa and opportunity to chat in the parish hall. If you have any questions please contact Mary on 07821 190906 or Br. Darren at darren@koinonia.ie. Everyone welcome!

**Adult Irish Dance Classes** every Tues at 8.30 from 8th January 2019 in the Holy Family Parish Centre (120 Cavehill Rd). Contact Anne :90324732/07714233298 e:annereidishdance@gmail.com.

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally observed from 18th to 25th January – the Octave of St Peter and St Paul. Attached are Resources which can be downloaded and printed for use in Parishes. A Church Unity Service will take place in St Peter's Cathedral on Tuesday, 22nd January at 7 pm and you are asked to encourage parishioners to attend.

**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.