

Parish Newsletter

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | 13 January 2019
Cycle C | Issue 07

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

The annual season of light draws to a close. People have traditionally packed up their Christmas decorations since last Sunday (Epiphany) and put them aside for another year. January is a bleak month, at least in our northern climate, but we know at the back of our minds that winter is passing, light is increasing steadily and that warmer times are

coming even as 'Yellow'/'Orange' and (God preserve us) 'Red' alerts seem to abound more and more in weather forecasting.

The feast of the Baptism of the Lord that we mark today is an appropriate feast with which to formally end the Christmas Season and to begin the season we call 'Ordinary Time' that will

Today'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

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 95:1-3,7-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

continue until Lent dawns on March 6th. I say 'appropriate' as birth and baptism mark endings and beginnings. Two people cease being individuals and become parents – the child leaves the womb for the world – for both child and parent it's an ending and a beginning.

We may feel a bit torn about things ending, be it Christmas or a life or some stage of life we are moving through. But if we did not have an ending to things in life how else could we appreciate what has taken place? Life is always lived forward and understood backwards. It is the only way that anything makes sense – if we grasp it is finite. If it were infinite and continuous we could not hope to understand.

We use the term 'baptism of fire' to describe someone coming through a very intense experience for the first time. I'm not sure if its' roots lie in scripture where the Gospel makes reference to the fire of the Holy Spirit with baptism. Fire warms and, in the case of the combustion engine, that controlled fire is the reason we can move a vehicle. We need the fire of the Holy Spirit to propel us onward in life. A spirit of power, a spirit of love, a spirit of favour – the Spirit of God.

Each of us is a mystery – a unique work of creation. The power of life breaks in upon us and the fact that we are not in this world by our own choice makes us sense that there is an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist. Simply put we're here for a reason. Each one of us has a personal 'mission' on this earth. What it is – we don't know. But through every day/week/month/year we shall unpack it with God's help and under God's favour who rests on us. ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

In which ways have you experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit through prayer?

Lesson

Jesus is the anointed son of God.

Prayer

We thank you, Lord Jesus, for your baptism and for ours. Help us to really believe in our baptism, and to live our baptismal promises.
Amen.

This Week (14-21 January)

- 14 Mon St Felix of Nola, bishop
- 15 Tue St Arnold Jansen; St Paul Hermit
- 16 Wed St Fursa, monk
- 18 Thur St Anthony, abbot
- 19 Fri St Prisca, virgin and martyr
- 20 Sat St Wulstan, bishop
- 21 Sun SECOND 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)



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

1. The people were searching and John pointed them in the direction of Jesus. On your life's journey who have been the John the Baptist people for you, people who have pointed you in the right direction?
2. The Baptism of Jesus was a very special moment for him that affirmed him in his identity as Son of God and in his mission. Recall the experiences that affirmed you – either in your sense of who you are, or in relation to the direction you were taking in life.
3. The Baptism of Jesus marks a transition point in his life, and the start of his public ministry. Recall the transition points in your own life. Where did you see the grace of God at work in those times?
4. This experience of Jesus occurred when he was at prayer. What part has prayer played in opening you to being aware of God in your life? What part has prayer played in helping you through a transition point in your life?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Grace Bowman (sister of Fr Paul Strain)

Anniversaries: Marie Matthews, Minnie Tanney, Patrick Joseph Greenan, Jim McCann, Eddie & Eileen Doherty, Stuart Wright, John O'Connor, John Higney, Claire Burke (nee Kelly), Eileen & James Irvine (Sun 13th at 11:30am), Patrick Gunn (Sun 20th at 11:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 13th January 2019

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis Mc Grillen

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Margaret Woods

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 20th January 2019

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kathryn Curran

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

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: Monthly Stipend £747.49, Weekly Collection £5, Christmas Collection £5, Shrines £93.64.

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.

Living Youth/Habitat for Humanity N.I. Ethiopia Team: 8th – 18th July* (*Dates may change slightly, depending on flight availability). Be part of this exciting ongoing partnership between Living Youth and Habitat's Global Village programme in Ethiopia! Twelve years ago, a volunteer team from Ulster University was the catalyst for our Ethiopia Partnership. Since then, thousands of lives have been transformed through small changes which make a world of difference; simple homes, clean water, proper toilets. Global Village is the name given to Habitat for Humanity's international volunteering programme. Its aims are to raise homes, funds and awareness about the need for decent housing and water sanitation. The programme is a unique, short-

term opportunity where you will join a team which has the privilege of working alongside families in need. Equally important is the personal development aspect of these trips with perspectives broadened, skills enhanced, and lives changed. This will be Living Youth's sixth trip to Ethiopia. "The trip was one of the best experiences of my life. Seeing the happiness, hope and joy the partnership was bringing to homeowners was incredible" Previous Team Member. Personal Donation £500; Personal Fundraising Target £1700. Closing Date for Applications: Thursday 31st January 2019. To register go to: www.habitatni.co.uk – click on 'Join Us', 'Volunteer Globally' and select Living Youth. For further information contact: kieraoneill@livingyouthni.org

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!

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.

Priory Institute: Study Theology Online. This Spring come and join our supportive student community and study theology by distance learning. Register Now! enquiries@prioryinstitute.com, www.prioryinstitute.com. 0035314048124. Poster in porch.

Day of Prayer given by Fr. Kilian Byrne. Theme: "Lord to whom shall we go?" Knock Shrine - St. John's Rest & Care Centre, Saturday February 2nd, 10am-5pm. Includes Talks, Rosary, Adoration, Mass. Further Info: Helen 086 1678027 / hellywilliams@gmail.com. Poster in Porch.

Children's Liturgy Development Days. The Living Church Office is hosting a series of development days for Children's Liturgy Leaders. The second of these days will take place on: Saturday the 16th February in the Living Church's new offices, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast BT14 6LA, from 9.30am – 3.30pm. The final session will take place on: Saturday 11th May, 2019 in the same venue. Each session will have a different theme and the aim of each day is to encourage, nourish, support and resource those involved in leading the important ministry of Children's Liturgy of the Word. Attendance at the days is free, lunch and all necessary resources will be provided. If you would like to register for one or both of the remaining sessions, contact Caren at the Living Church Office, 028 90 690920 or c.collins@downandconnor.org

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.

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