

Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 20 January 2019
Cycle C | Issue 08

THE INSIGHT OF OUR DELIGHT

Traditionally this time after Christmas was a time for arranging and celebrating weddings, before the rigours of Lenten fasting struck. A little disconcertingly, it was also called 'the time of the lies' because of the many false rumours of arranged marriages that circulated. A lot of wedding customs have very practical origins. The traditional lifting of the veil covering a bride served as an identity check in case of a switch! Bridal bouquets originated in a time when personal hygiene and bathing

were luxuries – and served as air fresheners in case of body odour. The list of practical origin of traditions we take for granted goes on and on. Interestingly (given the Gospel of today) it was also believed, in Ireland, that at Midnight on the eve of Epiphany – water would turn to wine.

But as at Cana and today – while customs may change – wine is still used to celebrate. The ancient tradition of the Eastern Church 'unwrapped' Christmas with three more showings

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
Psalm 18:8-10, 15
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

of Christ's glory after his birth. This year, with the dates of the Sunday fall, we preserve that perfectly: January 6th Epiphany (Christ is revealed to the Magi); Baptism in the Jordan (January 13th) and today the third unwrapping – the Wedding Feast at Cana. To give us a hint, this 3rd 'unwrapping' of the gift that is Christ has us meeting him at our point of need. More than an act of kindness to a couple – we have the mother of Jesus representing a need to him. The problem of the Cana Gospel is that it has become too familiar: we've heard it so often.

The First Reading gives us an interesting piece of name-calling though. And what couple do not have pet names for one another. They tell of one man who used to always endearingly call his wife 'love', 'sweetheart', 'darling'.

Reflection

What recent water-experience was turned into wine for you?

Lesson

The water becoming wine is an indication of what should take place in our hearts.

Prayer

Increase our devotion to your mother Mary. Once at Cana she told those asking your help to do whatever you would indicate. May she continue to lead us to a greater love of you. Amen.

When this was pointed out to him – he blushing admitted that he had forgotten her name three years before ... (I'm joking – I swear!).

More seriously though, the Lord is speaking to Israel, his people, like a lover. There's a new name for his bride. Not 'forsaken' or 'abandoned' but 'my delight' and 'wedded'.

Without exception, the Lord delights in each and every one of us. Whatever our build or background – be we short, tall, squat, fat or slim – whatever our colour or race or creed.

The readings of today remind us that we are all invited to the Lord's wedding Feast. We are called 'My Delight' – imagine that the Lord actually delights in each of us, even, and maybe especially, when we don't delight in ourselves. To truly believe that would make all the difference both personally and in our world around us. ■

– Tom Cox

This Week (21-27 January)

- 21 **Mon** St Agnes, virgin and martyr
- 22 **Tue** St Vincent, deacon and martyr
- 23 **Wed** St John the Almsgiver, bishop
- 24 **Thur** St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor
- 25 **Fri** CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE
- 26 **Sat** Ss Timothy and Titus, bishops
- 27 **Sun** THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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)
 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.
Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@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)



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS
John 2:1-11

1. The story is a story of abundance, the abundance of the blessings God gives us. How have you been aware of the abundance of God's blessings? Let the memories lead you to prayer of thanks and praise for the times in your life when that joy and fulfilment have been very real to you.
2. John uses a number of images (marriage, wine, feast, etc.) to symbolise the abundance of God's love. Do you have a favourite image, or metaphor, that reminds you of the abundance of God's love and blessings?
3. The hour of Jesus had not yet come when the glory of God would be fully revealed. Even so, something of the glory of God was revealed in the sign that took place. For us, also, the revelation of the full glory of God lies in the future, but we do get glimpses along the way. Recall some of the signs that have revealed to you something of the glory of God, e.g., nature, art, friendship, etc.
4. Mary/Jesus. It is interesting to note that despite the apparent rebuff, Mary is the first person in the narrative to show (at the level of the action of the story) that the correct response to the presence of Jesus is to trust in him. When have you trusted in the word of Jesus like that? What relationships do you have that you can trust like that? Do you recall times when your trust was rewarded even when you had initially been disappointed?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Grace Bowman (sister of Fr Paul Strain)
Anniversaries: Patrick Joseph Greenan, Jim McCann, Eddie & Eileen Doherty, Stuart Wright, John O'Connor, John Higney, Claire Burke (nee Kelly), Eileen & James Irvine, Patrick Gunn (Sun 20th at 11:30am), Kathleen McCann, Michael Gallagher (Sun 27th at 11:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 20th January 2019

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 27th January 2019

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £702.57, Monthly Stipend £64, Living Youth £5, Shrines £86.50.

Living Youth/Habitat for Humanity N.I. Ethiopia Team: 8th - 18th July* (*Dates may change slightly, depending on flight availability). This will be Living Youth's sixth trip to Ethiopia. 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. Or 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 - Christian Unity Service. The Annual Service for the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd January in St Peter's Cathedral. The preacher at the Service will be Bishop Ken Good, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry & Raphoc. Everyone is very welcome to attend and pray for the end to the division of the Christian family.

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: Helyn 086 1678027 / hellywilliams@gmail.com. Poster in Porch.

Diocesan Vocation Weekend. "Ask Jesus what he wants from you and be brave!" (Pope Francis) Why not take time to explore and reflect on becoming a priest. Join us at the Vocations Weekend in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne from Friday 15 - Sunday 17 February 2019. If you wish to attend this weekend or would like further information contact: Fr. Kevin Tel: 02890614567; Email: vocations@downandconnor.org.

Beginning Experience. Are you suffering the pain of loss of a partner? Looking for help and understanding? Beginning Experience (a support group for widowed, separated and divorced people) meets every Wednesday evening from 8pm to 10pm in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Malone Rd., Belfast. 1st weekly meeting and Information Session: Wednesday 30th January at 8pm. All welcome. Residential weekend at Drumalis 22/24th February. For details please contact Phil Tel: 028 90 207645 or Marie Tel: 07896119669.

Next Bethany Bereavement Training Course. Bethany Bereavement will commence its next course in March 2019. This training will establish new parish groups and enhance or expand existing groups in this ministry of consolation. Bethany Bereavement Support aims to help those bereaved and grieving. Support is offered on an individual basis in the home, to groups in drop-in centres, by phone calls, by helping at funeral liturgies and remembrance services. As of January 2019 there are thirty nine parishes in the Diocese with Bethany Teams plus another four in Northern Ireland. Parishes who wish for more information or to register interest in the next training please contact Claire Dowds, 120 Cliftonville Road, Belfast, BT14 6LA. Tel. 07557882183, E-mail: bethanybereavementni@gmail.com

Oberammergau Passion Play fully escorted tour ex Dublin 22nd August 2020 - 7 days. (play performed only every 10 years). Visiting Innsbruck Salzburg and Lake Constance. Price includes daily tours, tickets for the Passion Play and dinner/bed and breakfast at the hotels. £2049pp twin sharing (single room supplement £295) Limited availability. DEPOSIT £200pp. Contact Marie or Paul Downe Travel - tel. 02844 613288 or email marie@downetravel.co.uk

St. Brigid's Day Lecture 2019, given by Bishop Alan McGuckian, S.J., "DISCERNING DISCIPLES: POPE FRANCIS ON PRAYER", in St. Brigid's Parish Centre 38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, on Thursday, 31st January 2019 at 7.30pm.

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.