



SEEING WITHOUT PERCEIVING

Some people seem to have the gift not only of recalling names but of recognising people in any situation or context. Most of us mere mortals struggle in their wake. Others have little tricks to learn the art even if it doesn't come naturally. But there are others still who have the knack of recognising people as they really are – possessing insight as well as perception. When a person dies, it's customary to ask for thoughts from those who knew them. But do any of us truly know a

person as we should? Most of us hover between judgement and assumption.



WE NEED POWER FROM ON HIGH

Were Jesus' fears eased when he heard the Father was 'well pleased'? He was empowered by the Holy Spirit to begin his mission: to bring to the world the Good News of God's compassion, mercy and forgiveness for our sins. By daily dialogue about concerns and issues and by seeking help from on high, we can overcome our fears.

– *Marriage Matters*

www.twainoneflesh.org.uk

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Psalms 26:1-4, 13-14

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Matthew 4:12-23

We inevitably get it wrong. But this was not so with John the Baptist. He recognises his cousin Jesus as the Son of God. Mind you, it took the Baptist thirty years to do so and it was only after Jesus was baptised. But be that as it may, we all know relatives are possibly the hardest group of all to impress.

Sometimes the ego gets in the way. Someone was telling me of an athlete who had held a particular sports record for thirty-three years until it was bested by another. He said that he was proud to have held the record for that length of time, but now he would move over. In the Gospel today, John the Baptist says something similar.

John's statements are pretty clear 'he is the chosen one' and 'I have seen.' Some have called the Baptist a signpost. A modern-day comparison would

probably be St Padre Pio. According to reports, he would pray at length in the gallery of the church for several hours. Still, people would approach and point him out and try to speak with him. Sometimes he got very agitated and would point towards the Tabernacle and withdraw from their line of vision.

His message was clear - the focus was not on him but on the Lord. John the Baptist would agree. We live in an age obsessed with self. But in the end, it isn't about us - it never was. This may be the only occasion when it isn't rude to point: to point people in the right direction, to point people towards the path that is right, true, good and wholesome. To point, and not disappoint our very self. For if you are to be a reliable pointer towards Jesus, you need to be pretty rooted yourself and modelled on the Lord, as best you can.

- Tom Cox



Reflection

What is your favourite title for Jesus? What are the various associations it has for you?



Lesson

Jesus is the new lamb and like the Isahian suffering servant led to the slaughter, will pass over from death to life. His blood, like that of the Passover lamb, now sets all people free.



Prayer

Lord, help us to announce your gift of salvation through the lives we lead.
Amen.



This Week (20-26 January)

- 20 M** St Fabian and St Sebastian, martyrs
- 21 T** St Agnes, Virgin and martyr
- 22 W** St Vincent of Saragossa, deacon and martyr
- 23 T** St John the Almsgiver
- 24 F** St Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor
- 25 S** The Conversion of St Paul, the apostle
- 26 S** 3rd 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

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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

Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God.

(Jn 1:23-34)

*John said,
"I did not know him."*

*So the Spirit showed
the Christ to him.*

*And John
replied,*

*"behold,
the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world."*

*Spirit, come,
shine through our clouds.
Teach us your love.*

*Let us know
Jesus.*

*Let us tell everyone about
the Lamb of
God.*

Anne Osdelek

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Kevin Smith (Upper Knockbreda Road), Kevin McCaughan (father of Fr Aidan), Teresa Strain (sister of Fr Paul), Maura Devine, Catherine McNaughton, Rosaleen Murray, Fr Con Byrne
Anniversaries: Marie Matthews, Jim & Kathleen McCann, John O'Connor, John Higney, Michael Gallagher, Arthur Hughes (Sun 19th Jan at 11:30am), Patrick Gunn (Sun 26th Jan at 11:30am),

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 19th Jan 2020

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 26th Jan 2020

READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contributions to last week's collection: Weekly Collection £680.94, Shrines £38.45

Diocesan Directory containing lists of parishes, clergy, organisations and Liturgical Calendar is available in the Sacristy, priced £4

Word of God Sunday. Pope Francis has established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (26 January 2020) is to be the 'Word of God' Sunday. It is envisaged that a special emphasis on the Word of God and on those who proclaim it. At the masses next weekend, as well as a leaflet of reflections on the Word, there will be a special blessing of Ministers of the Word for those present.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from Sat 18th-Sat 25th January with the theme "They showed us unusual kindness" (Acts 28:2). Please find in the Church porch resources with reflections of the 8 days of the octave. The week will be marked in our Diocese by a Service in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Tuesday, 21st January at 7 pm and the

speaker on the occasion will be Fr Tony Curren who is in charge of relations with Anglicans and Methodists at the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Ordination to the Episcopate of Arch-deacon David McClay, rector of Willowfield Church of Ireland, will take place next Saturday 25th January in St Anne's Cathedral. We wish David and his wife Hilary every God's blessings on the next step of his vocation. The Parish will be presenting a Silver Plaque of the DaVinci Last Supper to him as a token of our good wishes and prayers, over at the Willowfield Halls after the Sunday 11:30am Mass this weekend.

4 Corners Festival Belfast This inter-denominational arts festival aimed at promoting reconciliation runs from January 31 to February 9. You are invited to attend as many as possible of nearly 20 events throughout Belfast, including a talk by Fr Peter McVerry SJ, the famous champion of the homeless. The theme this year is "Building a City of Grace" and the intention is to promote through music, drama and prayer discussion about the need we share for the gift of grace in our divided society.

One of the keynote events sees Church of Ireland bishop, Alan Abernethy return to St Anthony's Catholic Church, Willowfield, where as a horrified fifteen-year-old he witnessed a sectarian attack that he says changed his life. This Conference will be on Sunday 2nd February at 7pm.

The Festival was co-founded in 2012 by Falls Road priest, Fr Martin Magill and Presbyterian minister, Rev Steve Stockman. The events are free and further details can be found at the website www.4cornersfestival.com

Retrouvaille - A Lifeline for Married Couples: The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts 7th - 9th February 2020. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email info@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie.

A Marriage Enrichment Weekend. The next (residential) Weekend (Fri 8pm to Sun 4:30pm) will be held in Dromantine, Newry from 31st January- 2nd February. For information and to book, visit our new website www.marriagecounter.ie or phone 0770 281 2321 [NI] or 00353 (87) 2162436-- Tom and Madeline McCully with Fr. Seán Coyle

Easter Pilgrimage to Fatima 8th - 13th April 2020 All Easter Ceremonies in Fatima Mass in Santarem where the bleeding host took place and Prayers, and Hungarian Stations of the Cross in Fatima. Contact James Treacy 086-0572216

Public Lecture - The Global Persecution of Christians. Dr Michael Kinsella from Aid to the Church in Need will address the issue of the global persecution of Christians in a public lecture at Queen's University Catholic Chaplaincy, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast on Tuesday 21 January at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

"Hope for the Planet" Re-inhabiting the Earth Spring Conference - Drumalis, Larne, Fri, 14 - Sun, 16 February 2020. We are delighted to have Andy Lester, Head of Conservation for Christian Charity A Rocha UK, as the keynote speaker for this annual environmental conference. It is possible to attend on a residential or non-residential basis for the full weekend and there is also the opportunity to attend for the day only on Saturday. For further details or to book a place, please contact Drumalis - tel 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon- Fri, 9am - 5pm) Booking forms can also be downloaded from <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

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, commencing Wednesday 22nd January 2020, in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Malone Rd., Belfast. All welcome. For details please contact Phil Tel: 028 90 207645 or Marie Tel: 07896119669

Job Vacancy in Clogher Diocese for Co-ordinator of Safeguarding. See leaflet in Church Porch

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.