

LEADING FROM THE FRONT



It's probably appropriate, as the first month of the new year comes to a close, to have an account of a beginning: in this case the call of the followers of Jesus. We probably find endings harder, it has to be said, than beginnings. And in this age of choices and opportunity (so we tell ourselves), it is hard to grasp what Jesus was asking Simon, Andrew, James and John to do. It might be like asking Michael

O'Leary or Willie Walsh to leave the aviation industry to be a preacher, or Pat McDonagh to leave his restaurant



GOD HAS A STAKE IN OUR MARRIAGE

Today, we see two aspects of God's plan for our marriage: '... [I will make] their joy increase' (Isaiah) and 'I will make you fishers of men' (Matthew). God wants us to make our love for each other as close to Jesus' love for us as possible, that all whose lives we touch might experience how much God loves them.

- *Marriage Matters*

www.twainoneflesh.org.uk

Next Sunday's Readings



Malaki 3:1-4
Psalm 23:7-10
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

business. This was no alternative career choice that Jesus put before them.

I feel that our mental image, two thousand years later, is of this Gospel scene as some gentle option Jesus gave. Something on the style of, 'Lads, you might like to try this out!' One public speaker told of his very first speaking engagement. He arrived at the venue to find a lady seated at the back. Smiling, he said to her that she might like a seat closer to the front. Equally beaming back, she said in reply that she sat there as she might want to leave early. It wasn't exactly the most encouraging of starts for a speaker!

But there is no leaving here in the Gospel, or turning back indeed. And it has to be said that fishing was part of their very identity. Simon, Andrew, James and John were probably born fishermen into a line of fishermen. James and John are even identified as

fishermen by referring to their father, Zebedee. They were fishermen, plain and simple - always were and always would be. Until Jesus came and told them to drop their nets. Part of me imagines them with sea-legs adjusting to walking on land - and all because a stranger asked them to and needed them. Why? There was something about Jesus that drew people.

When we act according to our own agendas and efforts we will catch nothing. We all want to sit in the back row, preferably in a darkened space, where we can observe and not be seen. But the teacher is inviting us to take a seat closer to the front. We all know what the right response is to move forward now to the front and take a lead.

- Tom Cox

Reflection

In what ways has Jesus been a great light for you?

Lesson

Jesus is the great light, who dawns on all people - Jew and Gentile alike.

Prayer

Lord, when we are in the darkness, you shine the light of the hope of Jesus ON US.

This Week (27 Jan-2 February)

- 27 M** St Angela Merici, virgin and religious
- 28 T** St Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor
- 29 W** St Gildes the Wise, monk
- 30 T** St Aidan, bishop
- 31 F** St John Bosco, priest
- 1 S** St Brigid, Secondary Patron of Ireland
- 2 S** THE PRESENTATION 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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him (Matt 4:12-23)

*"Come after me,"
he said.*

*They dropped their nets and followed
the deep desires of their hearts.*

*They learned to heal.
To love.*

Lord, thank you for calling us too.

*For accepting the beauty,
the blindness of us,
the warmth,
the cold
of us.*

*Teach us to leave our nets and our works
to come and follow you in love,
to seek out your
people.*

Anne Osdleck

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), Rita Short, Richard Wilson, Maura Devine, Catherine McNaughton, Rosaleen Murray, Fr Conleth Byrne, Helena McElhennan,

Anniversaries: Jim & Kathleen McCann, John O'Connor, John Higney, Michael Gallagher, Arthur Hughes, Patrick Gunn (Sun 26th Jan at 11:30am), Ernest Young (1st Anniv Sunday 2nd Feb at 11:30am), Betty McParland (Sun 9th Feb at 11:30am), Brigid Murray (Mon 3rd Feb at 9:30am),

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 26th Jan 2020

READERS:

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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Anne Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 2nd Feb 2020

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anne Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contributions to last week's collection: Living Youth £461.82, Weekly Collection £274, Shrines £259.90

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 this weekend, as well as leaflets of reflections on the Word ("The Word" and "Hearers of the Word"), there will be a special blessing of Ministers of the Word for those present.

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 Sieve Stockman. The events are free and further details can be found in programme available in the Porch or at the website www.4cornersfestival.com

Parish Pastoral Meeting to finalise the 4CornersFestival event of Sun 2nd Feb, will be held in St Anthony's Church at 8pm on Tuesday 28th January.

Knock Mass at the Vatican will be celebrated by Pope Francis, and will take place in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome this Sunday 26th January 2020 at 9am (Irish time) and 10am (Rome time). It will be broadcast "live" on the EWTN channel on SKY 588 or Virgin Media 815, and people can also watch it "live" on www.ewtn.ie. Note: It will also be "live-streamed" on the EWTN Ireland Facebook page for those who might like to watch through an iPad, iPhone or smart device.

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

Join us and follow in the footsteps of Padre Pio on this, our first Parish pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo Italy. Return flights from Dublin, 4-nights from 13th September, accompanied by a Spiritual Director and includes a fully escorted religious programme. Tour package £595 per person. £200 deposit to be paid by 7th February 2020 to secure places. For additional details visit the website www.kilmoreandkillyleagh.com or contact Joe Walsh tours Tel: 00353 1241 0800

Drumbo Parish Pilgrimage to Poland, £860 per person sharing, 22nd-29th September 2020. Spiritual director Fr Michael Sheehan. 7 nights departing from Dublin direct to Krakow. Half-Board and including all tour. Booking forms are now available at the Parish Office 02890812238 opt 2, £260 deposit is required. Single Rooms now on a waiting list.

HSC Northern Ireland Foster Care launch on Tuesday 25 February 9.30am-11.30am at Girdwood Community HUB, BT14 6EG. This event will give an insight into different types of fostering and will provide accurate information about who can foster. Foster carers and fostering colleagues will be on hand to answer any questions. We will hear first-hand from Foster Carer of the Year 2019 and we will hear from a young person who has experienced foster care. We would be delighted if you could join us. Kindly RSVP by Friday 31st January to karen.carson@belfasttrust.hscni.net or phone 028 9504 0302 for catering purposes.

"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>

Bredagh GAC Slimathon. Tuesday nights at 6.30pm in St Josephs college, Ravenhill Road. Start 28th January 2020. Choose between Circuits; Running or Walking group. Weigh in is NOT COMPULSORY! £25 for 6 weeks pay at the door For more information ring 07510514979

St. Brigid's Day Lecture 2020 given by Baroness Nuala O'Loan, "CHRISTIAN AND CITIZEN?" in St. Brigid's Parish Centre, 38 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, on Thursday, 6th February 2020 at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

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.