

# Parish Newsletter



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 16 JULY 2017  
Year A | Issue 34

## A GENEROUS SOWING

I decided many years ago to stop making side (snide?) remarks at Mass about people who aren't actually there. I'm sure some of you making your way to your parish Mass had to pick your way through groups of cyclists, carefully overtaking joggers on your way and you can do without the priest making a few cutting comments on (sometimes literally) our brothers and sisters. I think part of my reason for this is that you realise that what is important is that "religion" be done

out there. I don't know how people live their faith privately. But I do know that God sows wildly, widely and indiscriminately.

I also don't know much about farming, but I'm told farmers pick the soil to match the crop. In Ireland we have brown soils, peaty soils and gley soils, ranging in fertility and acidity. We choose the best field for the seed, to give it the best chance. Why? Because results matter. So this Divine Sower

### Today's Readings



Isaiah 55:10-11  
Psalm 64:10-14 (Lk 8:8)  
Romans 8:18-23  
Matthew 13:1-23

### Next Sunday's Readings



Wisdom 12:13,16-19  
Psalm 85:5-6,9-10,15-16  
Romans 8:26-27  
Matthew 13:24-43

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makes no sense – unless the seed is the Word of God. I can picture God two-handed casting fistfuls all around.

Maybe two-handed is the best way to think of this. In one hand is the Word of God and in the other is our work. The call is to bring the two of them as close as possible together. Someone has referred to this as the PARABLE OF THE SOILS rather than the SOWER AND THE SEED. There does indeed appear to be an emphasis on at least four differing human responses to God's Word and initiatives. The seed is not lacking in potency – we are.

Our God is spreading the Word into our lives and we walk on the path of life and we have rocks in our heads (hard-headed) and hearts (hard-hearted

and -headed) and we have thorns in our lives – the violence that is there and we are withered at times in our lives – the loneliness and we are scorched by the sun at times in our pain. Yet we believe that the Word has been scattered there by God, waiting for a chance to grow.

The farmer chooses the best field – God chooses the field and gives it the chance that we will work with that seed, with that Word; with our prayer and our work, we will let it seep through into our lives. We have the Word in one hand – we have our work in the other hand, the example we give to others, and every day hopefully, in our Christian journey along the path of life. And day by day, deed by deed, we hope our two hands (the Word and the work) come closer together so that FINALLY we do the Word and the work of God which is (like the sower) to spread the seed everywhere – which is the seed of hope. ■

– Tom Cox

### Reflection

Feel Jesus speaking to you the blessing he spoke to his disciples.

### Lesson

Those rich in God's gifts receive more, while those who lack faith in the kingdom lose everything.

### Prayer

Lord, open our ears that we may hear you and open our eyes that we may see you.

### This Week (17–23 July)

- 17 Mon** St Clement of Ochrid & companions
- 18 Tue** St Frederick, bishop
- 19 Wed** St Macrina the Younger, religious
- 20 Thur** St Apollinaris, bishop and martyr
- 21 Fri** St Lawrence of Brindisi, priest
- 22 Sat** St Mary Magdalene
- 23 Sun** SIXTEENTH 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)



## 15th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 13:1-23

1. Jesus uses parables to make people think about their own responses to his message. As you read this parable you may recognize that at different times you have been like each of the different types of soil. As you recall times when you presented fertile soil for the Word of God, what helped you create that receptive atmosphere? What lessons for life do you get from that?

2. Parents with children, teachers with pupils, speakers with listeners, are all like sowers in a field where the preparation of the soil is up to another – the child, pupil or listener. They can sow the seed but cannot guarantee that it will bear fruit. At times there may be a temptation not to try any more. The challenge is to sow in hope. When have you been surprised by the harvest you have reaped?

3. 'We are wasting our time here' may sometimes be the apparent wisdom in a group. Have there been times when you have gone against this apparent wisdom and seen your efforts bear fruit?

John Byrne OSA. Email [jbyrneosa@gmail.com](mailto:jbyrneosa@gmail.com)

## WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Maureen Meehan

Anniversaries: Peggy Mackin, Mark & George Workman, Stuart Wright, Frank McPhillips, Charlotte & Michael Hopkins, Frances Matthews (Sun 16th July at 11:30am), Jean O'Connor (Mon 17th July at 9:30am), Neil Watson (Sat 29th July at 6:30pm), Dan Gallagher (Sun 30th July at 11:30am), Robert (Bobbie) McParland (Sat 5th Aug at 6:30pm).

## READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

NEW ROTAS AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY

Sun 16th July

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 23rd July

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly £556.35, Monthly Stipend £68, Shrines £169.73. **NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. Please consider signing a Gift Aid form so that the parish can claim back the Tax from the HMRC on your contributions. Your own Tax is not affected.

**National Church collection on 22/23 July in aid of 25m people facing hunger crisis in east-Africa:** The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has announced that special collections at all Masses will take place across Ireland on the weekend of 22 and 23 July to fund life-saving aid for people currently affected by the devastating hunger crisis in east-Africa.

Severe drought, driven by climate change, is currently affecting Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia and this has resulted in failed harvests and the widespread death of livestock. Conflict has exacerbated the effects in South Sudan and Somalia, with areas in both countries now on the verge of famine. The Catholic Church in Ireland is already responding to this crisis through a National Church door collection under the auspices of Trócaire. This collection will be taken up after Holy Communion. **Or** donations to Trócaire's east Africa hunger crisis appeal can be made at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org) or by phoning 0800 912 1200 (Northern Ireland).

**Pastoral Community Forum.** As part of the development of pastoral communities within the diocese, each pastoral area is asked to find one volunteer who would work with the parish priest to represent the parish on a Pastoral Community Forum. **As yet no one has come forward.** If you would like to take part in the South and East Belfast Pastoral Community Forum, please give your name to Fr McCann as soon as possible.

**Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis.** Drumalis invites applications for the next intake of the Diploma in Pastoral Theology, validated by St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth. This intensive, two-year course is delivered over twelve days per year. Course fees are subsidised by the Friends of Drumalis. Please bring this to the attention of parishioners who might benefit from it and who might share those benefits with their parishes. Further information is available on the Drumalis website or by emailing [maura@drumalis.co.uk](mailto:maura@drumalis.co.uk)

**Course of Training for Old and New Ministers of the Word.** The Bishop has asked that the importance and role of Ministry of the Word be enhanced and highlighted as an important calling of the faithful to participate in the life of the Church. There will be an information meeting on Monday 11th September, 7pm, at St. Malachy's Parish Centre. This programme (10 sessions), will take place on Monday evenings, 7-9.30pm, (including 30minutes break). The dates for 2017 are as follows: - 25th September, 9th, 23rd, October, 6th, 20th November. The dates for 2018 for the continuation of the course are as follows: - 12th, 26th February, 12th March 9th, 23rd April. Please keep these dates in your diary.

**Simon Community NI** are looking for volunteers to help at a bag pack in Tesco Newtownbreda on Thursday 20 July between the hours of 9 and 6. If you could spare an hour or two to help please contact Amanda on 07818 222 860 or email [amandascott@simoncommunity.org](mailto:amandascott@simoncommunity.org). All help would be greatly appreciated.

**RCIA** stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is for individuals from any faith background (and none) who want to explore and enquire into the catholic faith. It is a weekly series of classes and discussion covering a wide range of aspects of the catholic faith. The weekly classes are on Thursday evenings and last 1hr.30mins. RCIA is also for cradle Catholics who want a deeper understanding of their catholic faith and for Catholics who have lapsed from the practice of celebrating their faith and whom God is inviting to come back to him. Ultimately, RCIA is a journey of faith exploration and development, culminating in the reception of the catechumens/candidates into the catholic community at Pentecost, if after their exploration and enquiry into the catholic faith the Holy Spirit inspires them to do so. (Catechumen participants are those who were never baptized. Candidate participants are those who were baptized into another faith denomination). The RCIA programme begins at St. Mary's, Chapel Lane on 5th October 2017. Should you wish to take part, please contact Fr. James Boyle MHM, or Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel. 02890 320482  
Email: [administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com](mailto:administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com). SEE POSTER IN THR PORCH.

**CCJ-NI have a new venture starting... FIRST MONDAY STUDY.** We have had many comments from members who have enjoyed Rabbi Singer's teaching at different events, so from Monday the 7th August we will be hosting an INTERACTIVE Bible Study on the first Monday of each month at 7.45pm. The topics for these studies will be the application of our faith in our daily lives. August will be titled "Truth through the Psalms". Numbers for these studies will be limited to allow for open discussion and interaction, so registration is a MUST on a first come, first served basis each month. For more information contact Sharon Lough (co-secretary), [ccj.belfast@gmail.com](mailto:ccj.belfast@gmail.com), or phone 07925 926685. See poster in Porch.

**Come all ye and sing for your supper in aid of children in Malawi.** Informal music session, participate or listen, sing or be silent, maybe even dance! August 18th, 7.30-10pm, DOWNSHIRE COMMUNITY HALL, 1 Downshire Pk Central Cregagh Road. See poster in Church porch.

**Hearing aid support volunteering need throughout Northern Ireland.** There are 300,000 people in Northern Ireland with a hearing loss. Action on Hearing Loss (Formerly Royal National Institute for the Deaf), hopes to offer local support to everyone with hearing loss throughout Northern Ireland. Can you spare 2 hours per month? Should you require further information on Action on Hearing Loss support in your area or to receive a volunteer application pack please contact Laura Murphy or Norma Kelly on telephone: 02890 239619, e-mail: [volunteeringireland@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:volunteeringireland@hearingloss.org.uk) or visit the website at <http://bit.ly/2snvblf>

*If you have any notices to be included in the bulletin over the Summer months, please email Fr McCann or leave a note in the sacristy before/ after mass, or in his letterbox, 3 Willowfield Crescent.*

**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 PP.