

# Parish Newsletter



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 23 JULY 2017  
Year A | Issue 35

## THE MESSINESS OF LIFE

**T**he owner of the field seems surprisingly unconcerned about the weeds spoiling his crop of wheat. "Let them grow together," he says. "They can be sorted out at harvest time." Is there a hidden wisdom there that we could well imitate?

It suggests that being overly concerned about the weeds is not good for the final harvest. In many ways that is true, not only about a wheat harvest, but about other things in life as well.

Life is a gift from God, a gift to be treasured, nurtured and cultivated so that we develop to the full the potential that is within. We have a lot of growing to do to reach that point. Along the way we will notice defects in ourselves, failings, limitations, mistakes, bad decisions, patterns of behaviour that may be damaging rather than helpful. It is important that we be aware of these to see what we need to change in order to grow. This means recognising the "weeds" in our lives

### Today's Readings



Wisdom 12:13.16-19  
Psalm 85:5-6.9-10.15-16  
Romans 8:26-27  
Matthew 13:24-43

### Next Sunday's Readings



1 Kings 3:5.7-12  
Psalm 118:57.72.76-77.127-130  
Romans 8:28-30  
Matthew 13:44-52

and doing what we can to discourage their growth. Yet it will not be helpful to become obsessed with these. We will never be perfect on this earth and there will be always some element of living with the weeds. It is part of the messiness of life. We may be "God's work of art", as St Paul once said, but we are an unfinished opus. In addition to recognising what still needs to be done, it is important for us to be able to acknowledge the good that is already there.

For Jesus a good life is not the absence of evil, but the growth of good. Our main focus should be on developing the good that is within us. As love grows in our lives, the negative is gradually squeezed out. Rather than discouraging ourselves by constantly

highlighting our sins, or failings, would it not be better for ourselves (and for those who have to live with us!) if we recognise the positive that is in us and seek to develop it?

Also is it not true that our flaws are sometimes the occasion of significant growth? Have you ever found that it was through recognising the negative, the weeds, that you learned important lessons for life, e.g. learning by making mistakes, or asking stupid questions, or maybe taking foolish risks?

And as we accept messiness as part of our own humanity, so also we are challenged to show the same acceptance to others. Through our compassionate love we can invite them to be at home in their human condition while encouraging them to do better. ■

## Reflection

How can I encourage someone dear to me to see better what is good in them?

## Lesson

God does not love me because I am perfect. God loves me because God is perfect.

## Prayer

Lord, strengthen our spirit when we are slow and temper our zeal when we are rash, that in your own good time you may produce in us a rich harvest. Amen

## This Week (24-30 July)

- 24 Mon** St Sharbel Makhluf; St Declan, bishop
- 25 Tue** ST JAMES, APOSTLE
- 26 Wed** Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of BVM
- 27 Thur** St Theobald of Marly, abbot
- 28 Fri** Ss Nazarius and Celsius, martyrs
- 29 Sat** St Martha, disciple of the Lord
- 30 Sun** SEVENTEENTH 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)



## 16th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 13:24-43

1. The owner of the field who allowed the wheat and the darnel to grow together is a reminder to us to be patient with ourselves and with others when we see everything is not right. Sometimes a preoccupation with the negative (the darnel) can blind us to seeing the positive in our own lives and in the lives of others. When have you found that a willingness to live with the messiness of the present created the conditions for future growth?

2. Have you ever found that it was through accepting the darnel that you learned important lessons for life, e.g., learning by making mistakes, or asking stupid questions, or taking foolish risks?

3. The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven are reminders that seemingly insignificant things can have very positive results. Have you ever been surprised by the benefit to yourself or others of a kind gesture, a small initiative, or a word of encouragement?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Maureen Meehan

Anniversaries: Stuart Wright, Frank McPhillips, Charlotte & Michael Hopkins, Frances Mathews, Jean O'Connor, Letty Murray (Sun 23rd July at 11:30am), 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), Brenda Gunn (Sun 20th Aug at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

UPDATED ROTAS AVAILABLE IN SACRISTY (Sorry for Confusion)

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

Sun 16th July

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Anthony Clifford  
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Pastoral Services £367.98, Weekly £304.83, Monthly Stipend £36, Shrines £86.58. **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 this weekend 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 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

**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.

**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 1hr30mins. 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 MIM, or Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel: 02890 320482 Email: administratorofstmarys@btinternet.com. SEE POSTER IN THE 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, 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: volunteering.ireland@hearingloss.org.uk or visit the website at http://bit.ly/2snvblf

**Recruitment for Young Men for Morning Star House Legion of Mary.** Will you lend a helping hand? The Legion of Mary needs young men between 16-18 to give 2 hours per week working for homeless men in Morning Star House Belfast. If you are interested or would like to find out more information, contact Michael at 077 6341 8867

**PRO-LIFE ROADSHOW** - Youth for Life NI will be holding their third annual pro-life roadshow from 26th July - 2nd August, travelling around the length and breadth of Northern Ireland. For more information, contact Youth for Life NI on 028 9027 8484 or info@preciouslife.com.

**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.