

Parish Newsletter



PENTECOST SUNDAY | 4 JUNE 2017
Year A | Issue 28

RECOGNISING GIFTS

I don't recall it but as a young schoolchild in the early 1970s, my mother Maura was told after an educational assessment of me that I wouldn't amount to much. My older sister tells me she had a good cry and said: "I'm just going to have to work harder with him." And that she did. As June is my birth month – I think of her and all parents who never give up on their child. I am but one of many who knows that all they have is largely thanks to a special person; a teacher,

a neighbour, a family member who believed in them and helped us to re-engage with our skills and abilities. Probably the most empowering thing a person can say to you is that "you really have a gift for that." It all helps us to move and believe that I have gifts, that I can use them and my life can go in a positive direction that denotes a person who is gifted. It would seem that words are my "thing" – but don't even think of trying me at mathematics.

Today's Readings



Acts 2:1-11
Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

Next Sunday's Readings



Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9
Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

Pentecost talks to us about the attitude of believers. In the First Reading, you have a people who were divided and had decided they were split into national and religious differences. The sign of the Holy Spirit is that these melt away and they recognise and are amazed at their equality. In a parallel way, former US President Bill Clinton said of recently deceased Martin McGuinness, "He expanded the definition of 'us' and shrank the definition of 'them'."

"Them", "Those people" are very, very dangerous phrases indeed to use. In the Second Reading St Paul says the Spirit showers us with gifts and we are filled with them. While in the Gospel, Jesus looks at his group of followers after their failures and rough spots; he is able to say to them "peace", receive

the gift of the Spirit, recognise your giftedness and bring it to the world.

If the Church (whose birthday we celebrate today) means anything in the world of today it is that we are people who are good recognising gifts. The world is equally good at hiding, ignoring and blocking the gifts of people. But we are called to see the gifts of others and see that God's Spirit never tires and that the gifts are abundant. Let's try to today to recognise the gifts we have. And as a Church re-dedicate ourselves that all of God's children recognise their giftedness, especially the most vulnerable. It may be that due to age, tiredness, or circumstances, we don't recognise our gifts – if that is us, pray that we do.

"Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray." (Pentecost Sequence)

– Tom Cox



Reflection

Feel the fear and paralysis of the disciples and then the peace and joy Jesus brings.



Lesson

Listen to Jesus share his mission from the Father with his disciples.



Prayer

Dear Jesus, pour out your Spirit as a divine power to create new life, forgiving sin and cleansing from evil.



This Week (5–11 June)

- 5 Mon** St Boniface, bishop and martyr
- 6 Tue** St Norbert, bishop
- 7 Wed** St Colman of Dromore; St Robert
- 8 Thur** St William of York, bishop
- 9 Fri** St Ephrem of Syria; St Columba, abbot
- 10 Sat** St Ithamar, bishop
- 11 Sun** THE MOST HOLY TRINITY





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)



FEAST OF PENTECOST

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 20:19-23

1. Jesus comes into a room full of fear. Sometimes it is fear itself that makes us close the door on others and on God. Occasionally a person comes along with the gift of breaking through our closed doors, a person who comes to be with us in our fears. Do you have memories of people getting through to you and being with you despite your closed doors? Who brought you peace in a time of anxiety?

2. Jesus showed his wounds to his friends. Moments of grace can occur when another shows us their vulnerable side, or when we do that with them. Let your memories speak of such experiences to you.

3. As Jesus was sent by the Father, so he sent out the disciples. This evokes images of receiving and handing on the things that give life: values, meaning, sense of purpose, love. Who are the people who gave you life by what they handed on to you? To whom have you handed on what is life-giving?

4. In our tradition the final verse reminds us of the Sacrament of Reconciliation but its meaning is broader than that. Spirit-filled people are people who forgive. You might like to recall memories of when you have forgiven, or retained, another's sins. What difference has it made to you and others when you forgive rather than hold sins against others?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Richard Sheppard, Margaret Murray

Anniversaries: Michael Matthews, Hugh Crilly, Raymond Matthews, Kathleen & Jim Burns, Rebecca Crilly (Sat 3rd June at 6:30pm), Isobel & Thomas McGiffin (Sun 4th June at 11:30am), Elizabeth & Paul Spiers (Sat 10th June at 6:30pm), James Phoenix, Stuart Wright (1st Anniv Sat 24th June at 6:30pm)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 4th June

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 11th June

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & TBC

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly £960.89, Education of Diocesan Students to the priesthood £5, Shrines £79.43. **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.

Down and Connor Living Church Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg. Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th June 2017. Transport to be confirmed. Cost: £60. Please contact Geraldine Mullan : Tel: 028 90690920. Email: livingchurch@downandconnor.org. Lough Derg guides are available in the porch.

Annual Diocesan (one day) Pilgrimage to Knock, led by Bishop Noel Treanor, will take place on Sunday, 11th June. Buses will be leaving from various parishes throughout the Diocese. For further information please contact Fr Vincent Cushman, the Pilgrimage Director, at: cush25@hotmail.com

The WMOF2018 Volunteer Application Process is now Open! You can apply to volunteer here: www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer. Applicants to volunteer must be residents of the island of Ireland at the time of application and be over 18 years of age, as of 1st January 2018 (or as part of a group), among other terms and conditions. Volunteers can also help in the lead up to the event in the main offices of WMOF2018 and in various preparatory events taking place around Ireland. Volunteer information leaflets are available in the church porch.

Amoris: Let's talk Family! Let's be Family! You are cordially invited to an exciting and interactive journey of reflection on love, marriage and family. In each diocese from September 2017, everyone is invited to a catechetical programme run locally and also available online. More information can be found on leaflets available in the church porch.

Relic of St. Teresa of Calcutta visits Belfast. Itinerary:

Monday 12th June - Arrive at St. Patrick's Church Donegal St, Belfast - 7:00pm - 7:15pm. - Mass at 7:30pm. - Veneration after Mass until 11pm.

Tuesday 13th June - Veneration in St. Patrick's - 12:00 noon - 13:00. - Veneration after 1pm Mass until 15:00. - Transfer Relic to Corpus Christi Church Springhill Grove, Belfast BT12 7SL. - Mass in Corpus Christi Church Belfast at 7:00pm followed by veneration until 9:00pm.

Wednesday 14th June - Veneration in St. Patrick's - 12:00 noon - 13:00. - Veneration after 1pm Mass until 15:00. - Farewell Prayer Service - 15:00 - 16:00 - 16:00 Relic leaves Belfast.

Clonard Solemn Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. June 14th. - 22nd. More details at www.clonard.com/novena/

Turas Columbanus. Simon Derache has walked across Brittany, France and Italy. He takes the pilgrim walk from Bunclody to Bangor starting on June 4th. Welcome him in your town, village and community and offer him hospitality. Walk a mile with him along the route. For further information: tursecolumbanus@gmail.com. Leaflets in porch.

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. 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.

Media Training Workshops. The Iona Institute NI invite you to take part in 'How to speak up' media training workshops. Gain confidence in speaking out on important issues; The meaning of marriage, The right to life, the role of faith in public life... and more. Adult evening session Thursday 29th June 6 - 8.30 pm. Youth 16yrs+ one day event Friday 30th June 10.00am - 3.00pm. Both events held in St Brides parish hall 38 Derryvolgie Avenue Belfast BT9 6FP. To book a place & find out more email tharkin@ionainstitute.ie or call 07531149891.

Diploma in Pastoral Theology at Drumalis. In association with St. Patrick's Pontifical College, Maynooth. Applications are now being accepted for this two-year, part-time, intensive course which begins in September 2017. Closing Date for applications: 30 June 2017. Information available at <http://www.drumalis.co.uk> or by emailing maura@drumalis.co.uk or by phoning Drumalis 028 28276455/28272196 (during office hours, Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm).

Come and celebrate 50 years of Charismatic Renewal in the Concert Hall, RDS, Dublin on Saturday, 24th June 2017, 10 a.m., concluding with Mass at 6.30 p.m. This is a one-day national event. Tickets: €20. Speakers: Fr Pat Collins, C.M., and Testimonies: Mass Celebrant/Homilist - Archbishop Eamon Martin. Further information: Sr Bridget Dunne, The Haven, Bachelor's Quay, Cork. Phone. 021-425 1100. Email: nsc@iol.ie. Website: www.ccrireland.org.

Donaghadee Male Voice Choir in concert with special choirs: La Mi Bemol (Perpignan), Les Cantejalles (Saint-Médard en Jalles, Bordeaux), in St Malachy's Church, Alfred Street, June 7th at 7.30pm. Tickets £10, available from the Church and at the door. Proceeds to the Restoration Fund of St Malachy's. See flyers in church porch

Down and Connor: Sharing the Good News, newsletter available in the Church porch with information on past, present and future events within the diocese, including the Faith and Life Convention and Meeting of Pastoral Councils at Mid-Summer's Eve.

Gardening Talk by Cherry Townsend, of Killoan Gardens, Islandmagee, in aid of **Mary's Meals,** on Wednesday 14th June at 7:30pm in St Vincent's Centre, Willowfield Drive, Belfast. Tickets available from Suzanne 07825 449133, or at the door cost £5. See posters in the church porch