

Parish Newsletter

11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 17 June 2018
Cycle B | Issue 29

FRIENDSHIP

Nature can be both scary and wonderful. Jesus taps into the wonderful side of nature in today's gospel. The kingdom of God is like seed growing, he tells us. What's he saying? Well, first of all he is saying that the kingdom of God is something that grows. The kingdom of God has been described as being in right relationship with God, with yourself and with the world around you, or to put it in another way – it is when you

are comfortable in your own skin, in harmony with those around you, and at peace with God. That situation is not a given; hopefully we can grow into it.

Coming to be at peace in our own skin can be a slow process. We do not get instant revelation of the gifts we have, nor of the good we can do. We do not start off with a calm acceptance of our limitations. Coming to be comfortable in one's own skin and loving the person

Today's Readings



Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 91:2-3, 13-16
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 138:1-3, 13-15
Acts 13:22-26
Luke 1:57-66, 80

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that one is, is a slow and mysterious process. Like the seed growing, it can happen night and day, how we do not know.

Likewise coming to a right relationship with God is not a given. It takes time to grow out of childish and inadequate images of God so that we appreciate

Coming to be comfortable in one's own skin and loving the person that one is, is a slow and mysterious process.

the depth of God's love for us as revealed by Jesus. We believe that when we repent of our sins, God forgives us and sets us free. FREE. Why then can we be so slow to approach our God in peace?

One of the great tasks in life is relating

with people around us. Our first lessons for this come in the family where we learn about the give and take with others that is so much a part of negotiating our way through life. Dealing with friends, classmates and work colleagues helps us further. It's not all fun. We will learn our own capacity to hurt, and the need to seek forgiveness. We will also learn that relationships are not in our control, and some will fail, despite our best efforts.

But some will flourish. And looking at the people who matter to you in life, you may see that your love grew mysteriously, like seeds growing, until it blossomed into what it is today – a love from which you reap great benefits, and not only you but others also. Is it not true that when a loving friendship grows and is recognised, then others will come to you to draw encouragement, support and rest – like the birds that shelter in the shade of the mustard tree? ■

– John (Peter) Byrne

Reflection

When were you surprised by the unexpected development of a friendship?

Lesson

Like seeds that are not watered, relationships that are not nourished, may perish.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the friends we have. Bless them with health, happiness and love.



This Week (18-24 June)

- 18 **Mon** St Elizabeth of Schönau
- 19 **Tue** St Romuald, abbot
- 20 **Wed** The Irish Martyrs
- 21 **Thur** St Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
- 22 **Fri** St John Fisher & St Thomas More, martyrs
- 23 **Sat** St Audrey
- 24 **Sun** THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST





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)



11th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEK YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 4:26-34

1. If you sow seeds, or watch plants grow, you have ample opportunities to pause in wonder at the whole process of growth. It takes place imperceptibly and comes to fruition in beautiful flowers, majestic trees and abundant harvests.

2. Jesus uses this as a parable about the growth of the kingdom of God, the kingdom of right relationships with God and with one another. There too growth is slow, development is imperceptible, and then without realising it you have a mature relationship. Recall the stages of such development in your life and relationships, and give thanks.

3. In the second parable Jesus invites us to reflect on the importance and significance of relationships in our lives as they grow and mature. This is true both of our relationship with God and with others around us. When have you found a relationship in which you could 'make nests in its shade'?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Margaret Gwynne, Fr Harry Carlin, Con Boyle (father of Fr Con Boyle), Jack Brady, Fr Frank Harper

Anniversaries: Raymond Matthews, Michael Matthews, Isobel & Thomas McGiffin, Patricia McDonnell Nwoga, Elizabeth & Paul Spiers, Rebecca Crilly, Rose McPhillips & Francis McPhillips (Sun 17th June at 11:30am), Stuart Wright (Sat 30th June at 6:30pm),

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 17th June

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Marie Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kay Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 24th June

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £568.88, Monthly Stipend £30, Shrines £78.52.

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. New boxes of envelopes are available in sacristy. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann.

Please support the 4th National Collection in support of the World Meeting of Families, to be taken up in parishes on the weekend 23rd/24th June.

St Anthony's 80th Anniversary: This year we celebrate 80 years since the first mass was celebrated in St Anthony's Church. The first meeting looked at various aspects of the celebration. Many thanks to all who attended. An update to the 50th Anniversary Booklet is being sought. If you have any photographs/personal stories of your time in St Anthony's, contact Fr McCann. The cut off time for contributions is end of May/June. Your photographs/personal stories will be included with your permission. Information Sheets with envelopes are available in the sacristy. Please stay tuned for other initiatives for the 80th Anniversary celebrations. Next meeting: Tues 19th June 2018 at 7.30pm in Pope John Paul II Room/SVP Room behind the church.

World Meeting of Families - Tickets and Registration. A NEW updated information sheet as to the process of registration for the World Meeting of Families is available in the Church porch. It includes details as to ticket allocations for the Congress in the RDS, the Festival of Families (Sat 25th Aug in Croke Park), and the Papal Mass (Sun 26th Aug in Phoenix Park). 1. Anyone who registers for one day of the Pastoral Congress in the RDS will be guaranteed a ticket for the Final Mass in Phoenix Park. 2. Anyone who registers ONLY for the Festival of Families (Saturday 25th August) or the Final Mass (Sunday 26th August), will

receive a ticket subject to availability. 3. Following discussions with Dublin City Council, the Garda, and Security forces, coaches will not be allowed to drive up to the gates of Phoenix Park for the Final Mass. This means that those travelling to the Final Mass by coach will have to walk 2 or 3 km to the Park. There will be no seating at the Mass. However some portable seats may be allowed into the Park. This has yet to be confirmed by the National WMOF Team. Only people attending the Festival of Families in Croke Park on Saturday 25 August will have to present photo ID. People going to the Final Mass on Sunday 26 August in Phoenix Park will not be asked to present photo ID. Tickets will be issued online in due course to those who have registered. 4. People who have a disability will be transported via a shuttle service from their coach on arrival to their designated enclosure in Phoenix Park. After the Mass, they will be transported back to their coach. More information is found on the Update Sheet. — The parishes of our Pastoral Community (South Belfast), will provide a number of coaches to transport those interested in going to the Papal Mass (Sunday 26th August), Phoenix Park, Dublin. There will be enough coaches for those who are interested, at a price of £20. You will be kept in contact as to when tickets are made available. To assist with the booking of coaches, please give your name and contact information (email) on the sheet provided at the porch door ASAP.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES ICON IN DOWN AND CONNOR:

Glenaval on 19 to 21 June 2018.

Mass on Tuesday 19th: at 7.30pm. This Mass will be led by the local SPRED groups.

Wednesday 20th: evening from 7pm to 8pm there will be a prayer vigil and a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a time to pray for family life in the home. At 8pm the Koinonia Group will lead a time of prayer, music and praise with the theme: The Church is a Family.

Thursday 21st: Mass will be celebrated at 9am and then the Icon will leave for Ballycastle. The church will be open throughout the day and you are welcome to visit the Icon and write a prayer for your family's intentions which will be brought with the Icon to WMOF Masses in Dublin.

Downpatrick Pastoral Community Thursday 21st June 2018 to Saturday 23rd June 2018 St Patrick's Church, Downpatrick.

Thursday 21st: 7.30pm: Concelebrated Mass. 8.30pm until 10.00pm: WMOF Reflection and Prayers.

Friday 22nd: 6.00am to 7.00am: Quiet Veneration of the Icon. 7.00am to 8.00am: Concelebrated Mass. 8.00am to 9.00am: Reflection/Veneration of the Icon led by St Vincent De Paul Group. 9.00am to 10.00am Morning Prayer and Rosary (Saturday morning Group and Legion of Mary). 10.00am to 11.00am: Concelebrated Mass with schools participation. 11.15am to 12.00pm: Our Lady & St Patrick's Primary School Mass. 12.00pm to 1.00pm: Reflection/Veneration of the Icon led by St Joseph's Young Priest Society. 1.00pm to 3.00pm: Reflection and Veneration of the Icon led by Pastoral Community Groups.

3.00pm to 4.00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet (Sean McAlea). 4.00pm to 6.00pm: Reflection and Veneration of the Icon led by Knights of St Columbanus. 6.00pm: Angelus followed by Confessions and Quiet Veneration of the Icon. 7.30pm to 8.30pm: Concelebrated Mass. 8.30pm to 9.00pm: Prayer Service by Scout Group. 9.00pm to 10.00pm: Rosary/Night Prayers of the Church/Quiet Veneration of the Icon. Church closes on both nights of 21st and 22nd at 10.00pm.

Saturday 23rd: 6.00am to 8.30am: Angelus followed by Quiet Veneration of the Icon. 8.30am to 9.30am: Morning Prayers of the Church (Saturday morning group). 9.30am to 10.00am: Family Rosary. 10.00am: Concelebrated Mass. (Icon departs immediately after Mass)

Triduum of Welcome - St Patrick's, Donegall St, Belfast led by Fr Conor Staunton-Polland, Archdiocese of Liverpool, Saturday 23 - Tuesday 26 June 2018.

Saturday 23rd: 5.30pm Opening Mass of Welcome.

Sunday 24th: 8am Mass. 10am Mass Broadcast by BBC Radio Ulster. 12noon Mass. 7pm Candlelight Taizé Mass.

Monday 25th: Morning-A Time for Schools. 1pm Mass. 7pm Concelebrated Mass.

Tuesday 26th: Morning-A time for private visits to the Icon. 1pm Mass & Farewell to the Icon.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (11-16 July.) There are a few places left on the pilgrimage. If anyone is interested they should contact the Pilgrimage Office on 028 9064 6040 or email lourdes@downandconnor.org.

Ordination of Reverend Tony McAleese to the Priesthood on Sunday, 17th June at 3 pm in St Vincent de Paul Church, Ligoniel. Your prayers are requested for Tony at this time.

Book Launch: The Poor Clares in Belfast 1924-2012. This book written by Fr Martin Magill will be launched on Tuesday 19th June 2018 after 7pm Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 1a Glenview St, BT14 7DP Belfast. The book will be on sale priced £10 in the parish centre adjoining the church.

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.