

# Parish Newsletter

THE NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST | 24 June 2018  
Cycle B | Issue 30



## PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE

**T**HE American conductor Leonard Bernstein was once asked to explain the most difficult instrument in the orchestra to play. To the reporter's surprise, Bernstein replied without any hesitation whatever: "The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to get someone who can play second fiddle with as much enthusiasm, ... that's a problem. And if we have no second fiddle we have no harmony."

The ability to play "second fiddles" is not only a wonderful trait in the world of music; it is one of the noblest and most underrated roles in life. Take any successful person or company and look closely. The success will invariably be built up on the back of many "second fiddlers." You have the unsung heroes who find delight in the success of others. Sometimes they are acknowledged but most of the time they shy away from the limelight.

### Today's Readings



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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24  
Psalm 29:2,4-6,11-13  
2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15  
Mark 5:21-43

(continued on back page)

I doubt if the Baptist played a musical instrument, but what was more important was that he echoed (or second fiddled) the song of God in people's lives. He was willing to move aside when his own cousin Jesus came. You don't often come across that in parish life! June is the month of ordination anniversaries and in

**Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.**

– Pope Francis

Ireland, we native-born priests seem to be a disappearing tribe. We rejoice at growth elsewhere in faith around the world of course, but wonder at times about a dwindling harvest at home. Somehow, people don't seem

### Reflection

In which ways has God given grace to you or shown favour to you?

### Lesson

The Lord had manifested His great mercy toward Elizabeth in giving her a child. John the Baptist is the last of the prophets; what he will herald is the new day of salvation.

### Prayer

Guide us with the Holy Spirit that we might know your will and put it into practice.

to have gathered from us that they are Church, not just consumers of the church who attend or show up. We're getting better at delegating tasks, which creates followers, but not at sharing authority, which creates leaders. We've a lot done, but more to do and are running out of road with the fewer, older priests here wondering, "How can I live my life in the parish as constructively as possible in the interim?"

Priests aren't alone in needing to be challenged by the example of John the Baptist. Parents play an essential, and at times thankless, role bringing up the next generation. It is like the work of the scientist and researcher who leaves a body of work for others to build upon, the public official who thinks of the next generation not the next election, the teacher who helps each student to achieve their potential. We are all John the Baptists in a way, helping to usher others into a better tomorrow by the way we live our lives today. ■

– Tom Cox

### This Week (25 June–1 July)

- |    |      |                                           |
|----|------|-------------------------------------------|
| 25 | Mon  | St William of Vercelli, bishop            |
| 26 | Tue  | St Rudolph                                |
| 27 | Wed  | St Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor |
| 28 | Thur | St Irenaeus, bishop and martyr            |
| 29 | Fri  | SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES               |
| 30 | Sat  | First Martyrs of the Church of Rome       |
| 1  | Sun  | THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME        |



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) 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@downandconnor.org, henrymccann@hotmail.com, Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk  
**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)



## NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 1:57-66, 80

1. The birth of John the Baptist was an occasion of great joy for family and friends. Recall occasions when you celebrated the arrival of a baby. What thoughts and feelings did you have? Use the memory to reflect on the wonder of your own life and give thanks for it.
2. There is often a story behind the name given to a child. What story lies behind your name? Perhaps it says something of the hopes your parents had for you, or the memories they wanted you to retain.
3. 'What will this child become?' The Baptist was to become a herald pointing the way to Jesus. In our turn we are also called to point people towards a better way of life. Recall times when you were able to point somebody in a direction that helped. Give thanks for those who have done the same for you.
4. The child grew and the hand of the Lord was with him. As you look back on your own growth and development, were there things that happened about which you now say 'the hand of the Lord was with me there'?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Fr Harry Carlin, Con Boyle (father of Fr Con Boyle), Jack Brady, Fr Frank Harper  
Anniversaries: Raymond Matthews, Elizabeth & Paul Spiers, Michael Matthews, Isobel & Thomas McGiffin, Patricia McDonnell Nwoga, Rebecca Crilly, Rose McPhillips & Francis McPhillips, Michelle & Charlotte Hopkins (Sun 24th June at 11:30am), Stuart Wright (Sat 30th June at 6:30pm).

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 24th June

#### READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blancy & Carmel Blaney  
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

#### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 1st 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: Peter's Pence: £467.988, Weekly Collection £254.42, Monthly Stipend £18, Shrines £84.04.

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 THIS 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 3rd July 2018 at 7:30pm in Pope John Paull 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). Tickets will be issued online in due course to those who have registered. 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:

Triduum of Welcome - St Patrick's, Donegall St, Belfast led by Fr Conor Stainton-Pollard, 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.

Icon Painting Workshop with Theodore Papadopoulos, October 8-13 2018, Knock, Co Mayo, Ireland with the Alexian Brothers Monastery. For more information see www.theodoreicons.com/knock.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage to Knock Sunday Sept 9th 2018. Chief Celebrant Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Apostolic Nuncio. See poster in porch.

Rite of Christian Iniation of Adults is for individuals from any faith background (and none), or for cradle Catholics or lapsed, 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 sessions last 1hr.30mins A journey of faith exploration and development, it culminates 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. The RCIA begins at St. Mary's, Chapel Lane on Thursday 18th October 2018. Please contact Anne McCrossan ASAP to arrange a meeting and register. Tel: 02890 320482 or Email Fr Brian McCann: stlukes@downandconnor.org; or Fionnuala E Fionnuala.mclernon@btinternet.com.

Healthcare Pastoral visitors' course 2018: The next course run by the NI Healthcare Chaplains' Association (NIHCA) and Edgehill College will run for 9 weeks beginning Thurs 27th September 2018 from 7.30 - 9.30pm at Edgehill College, Belfast. The course is aimed at lay people who are interested in healthcare pastoral visitation, either within the local church context or within a chaplaincy context, or who already visit healthcare facilities such as hospitals, hospices or residential/nursing homes as part of their church responsibilities. Cost is £75, which includes materials and refreshments each night. For further information and an application form contact: Mrs Kay Irvine, College Administrator, Edgehill Theological College, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast BT9 5BY. Email: kirvine@edgchillcollege.org Tel. (028) 9066 5870.

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.