

## BELOVED AND BEWILDERED

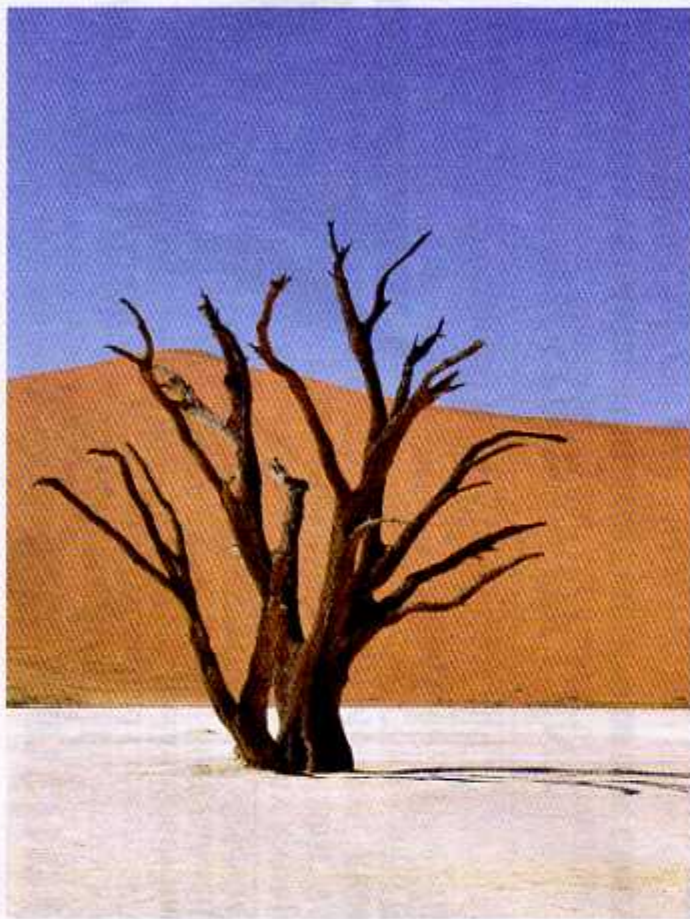
**F**rom my acquaintances that live and work in very secular places, last Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) might as well be called “there is something on your forehead” Wednesday. I’ve even seen pictures online of ash “selfies”, even to the point of putting #ashtag selfies (ask a teenager!) on social media networks. All neatly forgetting the words they heard at Wednesday’s Mass “Beware of practising your piety before others.” Maybe it’s why you will see Pope Francis and generally on the Continent, ash sprinkled on top of the head, rather than signed with a cross as in Ireland. Lent is about a personal journey, not some kind of “in your face” Catholicism.

### **To change the world**

The journey as ever in Lent begins with Jesus in the desert. We are invited to go gently into the desert. I’ve found the deserts I’ve traversed to be fearful yet alluring, and more than once prayed the vehicle wouldn’t break down. This is an annual journey we take for Lent. We take with us our disordered lives as well as our passion for making things right in our lives.

Speaking of Social Media, a tweet found some time ago from musical artist Lady Gaga known for her self-empowering messages, fashion and performances, might help us to regain and strengthen our spiritual balance during Lent. She tweeted that she intends to change the world “sequin

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by sequin". We can be amused by this or it can challenge us! ... How's that for a life's purpose? How do I intend to change the world? And if so what would I tweet? I intend to change the world...

*Kindness by kindness  
Justice by justice  
Healing by healing  
Forgiveness by forgiveness  
Prayer by prayer*

## Walk with faith

Lent is a space where we connect our lives with the life of Jesus. The last words he heard before this were "This is my Son, the beloved, with him I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17b) and now he is led to the wilderness. He is both beloved and bewildered. In fact, he is like us in all aspects but sin. We should never imagine that, in our journey, we will not be both tempted and restored. We need to walk with faith personally and with our Church community – the people of God.

The age-old call last Wednesday was to pray, fast and give alms. I'm sure we're slipping already, but take heart! What God calls us to is not perfection, but faithfulness, to trying our best to listen to God's voice in our everyday lives and to getting up each morning with a renewed heart. ■

– Tom Cox



## Pope's Prayer Intentions for March

### Support for Persecuted Christians

*That persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church.*

## THIS WEEK (6-12 March)

Mon	6	St Colette
Tue	7	Ss Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
Wed	8	St John of God, St Senan, bishop
Thur	9	St Frances of Rome, religious
Fri	10	St John Ogilvie
Sat	11	St Aengus, bishop and abbot
Sun	12	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

## Readings

### TODAY

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7  
Psalm 50:3-6.12-13.17  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

### NEXT SUNDAY

Genesis 12:1-4  
Psalm 32:4-5.18-20.22  
2 Timothy 1:8-10  
Matthew 17:1-9



# 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)

## 1st SUNDAY OF LENT

### SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 4:1-11

1. In today's Gospel Jesus is enticed to gratify his own needs, or to perform some spectacular act in public. He rejects the temptation because he chooses commitment to his mission and to dependence on his Father over any immediate gratification. We can all be tempted to go for some immediate satisfaction, but is that where happiness lies? Have you found that sometimes there is more contentment in saying 'no' for the sake of some long-term goal? What are the goals, aims, values that inspire you in this way?

2. One way of looking at this Gospel is to say that Jesus went into the desert to face his demons. We all have demons we need to face - compulsions, fears, prejudices, anger, and urges that lurk within. It is in facing our demons that we find a way to live a fuller life. Can you recall a time when you grew through facing a 'demon' in this way?

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

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Patrick Gunn, Sofia Gaberova, Cliff Black  
Anniversaries: Bridget Curran, Fred McGreevy (Sat 11th March at 6:30pm), Susan Gallagher (Sun 12th March at 11:30am), Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 19th March at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 5th March

#### READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney  
Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Kay Dunn

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 12th March

#### READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen  
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Eileen Dunn

#### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collection: Weekly £337.93, Sick & Retired Priests £24, Monthly Stipend £12, Shrines £110.86. New Boxes of Envelopes are being prepared before the end of March. 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.

Trocaire Lenten Collection Boxes are available in the porch.

Lenten Programme 2017 for the South & East Belfast Pastoral Area. Please find in the porch a group parish timetable of Lenten Programmes available for the parishes in the Pastoral Area.

**Lenten Pioneer Pledge.** Many people choose to abstain from alcohol during Lent. Why not take this opportunity to help someone you know with an alcohol or drug problem by offering your sacrifice for their freedom from addiction? Take the short term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life. Register your pledge with local Pioneers or the D and C office, tel. no. 02890 894070 or Ian 02890 616601. Please give your name, address and contact no.

**Fatima comes to Down and Connor.** Ave, Ave, Ave Maria! A pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima, blessed by Pope Francis, will be visiting a number of churches in the Diocese of Down and Connor from Thursday

9th March to Sunday 12th March '17, as part of an all-Ireland pilgrimage in honour of the centenary year of Fatima. The pilgrim statue will visit the following churches at the following times:

**Thu 9th** - St. Mary's Church Dunsford 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., contact Anna 07740 704622).

**Fri 10th** - Holy Rosary Church Belfast 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m (contact Joe 07929 045294), St. Malachy's Church, Belfast 12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m. (contact Doris 07917 056350), St. Oliver Plunkett's Church, Toome 2.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. (contact Una 07743 575969), St. Malachy's Church Coleraine 7.30 p.m - 9 p.m., (contact Orla 07545 452362) journeying back to St. Oliver Plunkett's Church 10.30 p.m. for all night adoration until 6 a.m.

**Sat 11th** - Holy Cross Church, Ardoyne 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. (contact Joe 07776425631), St. Mary's Church, Chapel Lane, Belfast 12 noon - 7.30 p.m. (contact Orla 07545-452362), St. Mary's on the Hill, Glengormley 10 p.m. mass and all night vigil to 6 a.m. (contact Patricia 07972103130)

**Sun 12th** - St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast 8.45 a.m. to 12 noon, for both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. mass followed by procession up the Falls Road to St. Paul's Church, arriving in St Paul's Church for 12.45 p.m. The statue will then leave Down and Connor journeying to the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is being brought to Ireland by The Alliance of The Two Hearts and Alliance of The Holy Family International. There will be mass rosary, adoration, consecration of homes and families to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus and enrolment in the brown scapular for those who wish to do so. All prayer groups and prayer banners welcome. You are also welcome to bring roses to present to Our Lady and a white handkerchief to wave (Fatima tradition) to venues and rose petals to the procession on Sunday. Children are welcome to come dressed as little shepherds. You can follow the pilgrimage to Down and Connor on facebook at [fatimacomestodownandconnor](http://fatimacomestodownandconnor). Further information for all venues in Ireland will be posted at [www.fatimacomestoireland.com](http://www.fatimacomestoireland.com). Please find leaflets in the church porch.

**Weekly Tridentine Mass.** The Diocesan provision for the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, colloquially referred to as the Tridentine Mass, has been extended so that from the First Sunday of Lent, 5th March, there will be a weekly Mass in the Extraordinary Form at 4pm in St Therese of Lisieux Church, Somerton Road, Belfast.

**'Faith in the public square'** Inaugural Conference of The Iona Institute Northern Ireland, Saturday, March 25th, 9.30 am - 1.30 pm. in St Brides Parish hall- Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast. Admission is Free. Keynote Speakers: Archbishop Eamon Martin Archbishop of Armagh & primate of all Ireland Baroness Nuala O'Loan.

#### Timetable

9.30 Registration tea/coffee  
10.15 Welcome - Alban Maginness  
10.30 Keynote Address - Archbishop Eamon Martin : 'The importance of speaking out in the public square'  
11.00 Questions  
11.15 Break  
11.30 Baroness Nuala O'Loan :

'The role of faith schools in a pluralist society'  
12.00 Questions  
12.15 Tracy Harkin :  
'Communicating the right to life'  
12.45 Questions  
13.00 David Quinn : Concluding remarks. To register: Please email [info@ionainstitute.ie](mailto:info@ionainstitute.ie) or phone 00 353 1 661 9204.

**"Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse - Emotional, Physical or Sexual"** 6 day retreat program will be held in N. Ireland from Sunday 7th May to Friday 12th May 2017. Dr Theresa Burke, M.A. Phd. NCP, LCP, BCCP, DABFC, DAPA will be facilitating with an experienced team from America and the UK.. If you would like an application form or more information please call or text Martin on 07814 748 847 (e mail [mmorrisonz3e3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mmorrisonz3e3@yahoo.co.uk)) or Collette on 001 267 640 9673 (e mail [avalibb@aol.com](mailto:avalibb@aol.com)) or google Dr Theresa Burke - Grief to Grace. Dr Theresa Burke is the founder of "Rachel's Vineyard Ministries - Healing the Wounds of Abortion".