

Parish Newsletter



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 4 March 2018
Year B | Issue 14

TREASURING CONVERSION

Lent concentrates on the call to conversion which is at the core of the Christian life. Conversion is not to be considered as an obligation but as an invitation, indicated in the bestowing of ashes on the opening of the liturgical season – 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'. Combining both change of heart and confession of faith is not a legal requirement but rather a loving response to the grace of God.

Today's first reading contains the

Commandments which are not reducible to a checklist of rules to be ticked off as we judge ourselves. The Commandments are concerned with relationship to God and responsibilities to others that are rooted in that relationship. Amalgamating adoration of God with appreciation and not abuse of others in both attitude and action, the Gospel records Jesus' response to the collapse of commitment to the contents of the Commandments.

The conduct of the people selling

Today's Readings



Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 18:8-11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Next Sunday's Readings



2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23
Psalm 136:1-6
Ephesians 2:4-10
John 3:14-21

(continued on back page)

animals and changing money in the Temple is a complete compromise of the call to worship God and to work for the wellbeing of others. This causes Jesus to not only castigate them but to cast them out. The corruption of faith in God and just relations with others comes from idolatry which, in this case, is the pursuit of money and profit, particularly at the expense of the poor.

'Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father's love, which Jesus sought to reveal by his entire life.'

– Pope Francis (*Misericordia et Misera*)

What people treasure is the true test of what they trust and entrust themselves to.

The wisdom of the Gospel is greater

than any human wealth or other hallmarks of success, status and sufficiency. This lesson for living can only be learned through conversion of mind and heart, by being conformed to Christ who is 'the power and the wisdom of God'.

The contrast that Saint Paul makes between divine weakness and human strength communicates the compassion of God. This allows us, in Lent and throughout our lives to ask God, in the Opening Prayer of the Mass to 'look graciously on this confession of our lowliness' that we may 'always be lifted up by your mercy'. The Commandments are not a criterion of perfection in which we prove our goodness but a charter of grace in which we find the source of mercy so that it can be shown to and shared with others, family and foreigners, friends and strangers.

– Kevin O'Gorman SMA

Reflection

How am I finding favour with God and others by following the way of the Gospel?

Lesson

Jesus said: 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also' (Matt 6:21).

Prayer

Lord, you have the message of eternal life. Teach me to know your wisdom so that I can live it in reverence of You and respect for others.

This Week (5–11 March)

- 5 **Mon** St Kieran, bishop
- 6 **Tue** St Colette
- 7 **Wed** Ss Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
- 8 **Thur** St John of God
- 9 **Fri** St Frances of Rome, religious
- 10 **Sat** St John Ogilvie
- 11 **Sun** FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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)



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 2:13-25

1. In the Old Testament the privileged place of God's presence was the Temple in Jerusalem. In the New Covenant, this was replaced by the person of Jesus. This is the symbolism of the action of Jesus in the Temple. Recall how Jesus has helped your relationship with God and give thanks for this.

2. But we are the body of Christ. When have you been particularly aware of the sacredness of people (yourself or others)?

3. There are many ways in which people, the temples of God, are being profaned today. Where are you aware of the sacredness of the human person being violated? Who are the people seeking to cleanse the temple, by promoting respect for the dignity of every human person? Perhaps in ways you have done this.

4. We may also think of institutions as in some way temples of God's presence. In this time when aspects of our institutions are crumbling we can perhaps identify with the Jews who were horrified at the suggestion that the Temple would be destroyed. What is it like for you living in a time when some of the things you have taken for granted are collapsing? Where do you find hope in such circumstances?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Sam Frizzell, Daniel Joseph (Don) Owens, (father of Fr Peter), Janina Halaburda (Month's Mind Sat 3rd March at 6:30pm), Terry McCann (brother of Fr Henry)

Anniversaries: Michael Gallagher, Brigid Murray, Betty McParland, Bridget Curran, Mary Hughes, Frederick Charles McGreevy (Sat 10th March at 6:30pm), Susan Gallagher (Sun 11th March at 11:30am), Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 18th March at 11:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 4th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 11th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Shauna Mullen & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: World Meeting of Families £531.90, Weekly Collection £657.10, Shrines £281.52. Anonymous donation £500.

World Meeting of Families collection last week only collected on the Saturday vigil, but there was enough donations from other sources to make it feasible and no longer a necessity to complete, unless you the parishioners wish it.

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. As new boxes of envelopes are being prepared let Fr McCann know if your address details have changed.

Trócaire: "How much longer will you set on a victim, all together, intent on murder, like a rampart already leaning over, a wall already damaged?" Psalms 62:3. Today we pray for the people of Eastern Ghouta in Syria. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed in the bombing of the past two weeks including many children. Trócaire's partners continue to work on the ground in horrendous conditions. We pray for those who can resolve this crisis to find the political will to do so. To find out more on Trócaire's work visit www.trocaire.org.

Lenten Devotions: Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6:15pm before Mass.

Course for Ministers of the Word. The second part of this programme, will take place on Monday evenings, 7-9.30pm, (including 30 minutes break), continues 26th February, 12th March, 9th & 23rd April. St Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast. Handouts available in the sacristy for those who cannot attend.

Course for Ministers of Holy Communion: In conjunction with 'Paula McKeown, Director of 'Living Church', the Pastoral Council would like to provide a short course of instruction and training for new Ministers of Holy Communion. It will take place on 20th Feb, 27th Feb and 6th March, in the Good Shepherd Centre during Lent. If you are interested, please give your name to the secretary: Tel: 90642446, or to Fr McKenna personally. The course is also open to existing Ministers of Holy Communion and is an ideal opportunity to do something 'extra' during Lent. It is envisaged that there will be 3-4 sessions in total, culminating in a Service of Installation.

42nd Street—St. Agnes' Choral Society are excited to be producing the Broadway Classic, 42nd Street, from 10th-14th April. The show is also currently running in The West End but why not avail of the chance to see it in The Grand Opera House? Tickets can be purchased online at www.goh.co.uk or via the Box Office on 028 9024 1919

St Colmcille's Lenten Prayer Sessions: St Colmcille's parish, will offer a programme of prayer in Lent for those who are seeking ways to enhance their prayer life, or to find a new way of praying. The sessions will be based around *Lectio Divina* and *Visio Divina*. The programme of prayer will take place in St Colmcille's Parochial Hall on Tuesdays 6th, 13th and 20th March at 7.30pm and will be repeated on the subsequent Friday mornings, 9th, 16th and 23rd March at 10.00am. Enquiries to Noeleen 07879 498131.

The Parish of Drumbo & Carryduff - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Tuesday 22 - Wednesday 30 May 2018). Drumbo Parish invite you to join their Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - In The Footsteps of Christ & the Holy Family. Package price - £1,440 per person sharing. This includes return coach transfers from Carryduff to Dublin Airport, return flights with British Airways, generous luggage allowance, 4* Hotels on a half board basis (3 nights Tiberias / 4 nights Jerusalem), & all excursions. If you are interested to receive further information please contact the Parish Office on 028 90812238 opt 2 or Anam Cara Travel - 02825 821 690. This pilgrimage is organised and coordinated by Anam Cara Travel (Co Antrim). Limited Places Remaining!

The Heart of Living & Dying: What Matters to YOU? Starting conversations about your wishes around death & dying. Tuesday 13th March 2018, 6.30 - 8.30 pm, 'Garden Coffee Shop', Clotworthy House, Randalstown Road, Antrim. Light refreshments provided. No need to book. All adults welcome! Further information: Fiona (T) 07867 442178. fiona.gilmour2@northerntrust.hscni.net.

Willowfield COI invite senior citizens of St Anthony's to St Patrick's Day Dinner on Wed 14th March 2-4pm, Willowfield Church halls. If interested give your names to Fr Henry ASAP. See poster in porch.

Music for a Lenten Evening in St. Brigid's Church, 9th March at 7.30pm. St. Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum directed by Mr Nigel McClintock and St. Brigid's Choir directed by Dr Niall Leonard. Programme includes: Allegri's Miserere and Faure's Requiem All welcome - Retiring Collection.

Dromantine Summer Camp is for boys and girls aged 11 - 17 years. The Camp is organised by the Society of African Missions [SMA] and has been running for over 40 years every Summer during the months of July and August. A week at Camp lasts from Sunday to Friday and offers a variety of activities Sports, Faith and Entertainment, guidance on life's opportunities /challenges and input from Friends of Africa Volunteers returning from their six - week experience in Africa. The Camp is FAITH based. It is a wonderful opportunity for boys and girls to spend a week in glorious surroundings and to take part in the many activities available. If you're interested in coming along then checkout our Facebook page at Dromantine Summer Camp or e mail us at summercamp@dromantineconference.com. [Tel:02830821224].

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.