

Parish Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 11 March 2018
Year B | Issue 15



A MOST GENEROUS GIFT

Spectators at sporting events sometimes see a reference to a verse from today's Gospel, that God sent His Son for the salvation and not the condemnation of the world. The sight of a placard proclaiming the Gospel prominently placed behind a goalpost is a reminder to reflect on both the need for, and the nature of salvation.

Sports commentators and writers often have recourse to the language of redemption in referring to the aims and

achievements of players and teams. Sporting success is often seen and stated in terms of salvation. This can refer to the fact of winning after failure and is attributed entirely to the efforts of those engaged in the game or match.

However, the Gospel proclaims that salvation is not something gained through a game but is given. Saint Paul states this clearly: 'God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy'. Matches are won on merit, salvation is given on mercy.

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 50:3-4.12-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

(continued on back page)

Salvation is God's say in the human story, the final say which leads to freedom from diminishment, death and self-destructiveness. Salvation is not a reward for success but a remedy for sin, the redemption that is revealed through the Resurrection.

The exuberance with which Paul proclaims salvation is not excessive

'Nothing of what a repentant sinner places before God's mercy can be excluded from the embrace of his forgiveness.'

– Pope Francis (*Misericordia et Misera*)

because it brings an eternal remedy as the Prayer over the Offerings

Reflection

How can I celebrate and communicate the Gospel story of salvation?

Lesson

'The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel'. (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 114).

Prayer

Lord, in Your mercy you offer the grace of healing and hope. Help me to appreciate and accept such an absolute gift.

exclaims. The motive and means of salvation is God's mercy. Pope Francis has made this mercy of God the meaning of the Church's mission. The call to conversion is not a charge of condemnation, though things may need to change in the conduct and course of a person's or a community's life. Conversion is a change for the better so that we become good and live as God has always intended and invited us to be. Mercy is the grammar of grace by which God in Christ and through the Holy Spirit helps us to write the story of a good and happy life that looks forward in hope to a place in heaven.

As Lent looks towards Easter we can leave the darkness of sin and live in the light of grace. God's infinite generosity invites us to look beyond the cynicism, competitiveness and conflict that can coarsen life, cheating people of joy and peace. ■

– Kevin O'Gorman SMA

This Week (12–18 March)

- 12 **Mon** St Maximilian
- 13 **Tue** St Euphrasia
- 14 **Wed** St Leobinus; St Matilde
- 15 **Thur** St Louise de Marillac
- 16 **Fri** St Finnian
- 17 **Sat** ST PATRICK, PATRON OF IRELAND
- 18 **Sun** FIFTH 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)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 3:14-21

1. Jesus speaks of himself being lifted up, a term that can mean a physical lifting, or also exaltation. By this play on words the evangelist explains to us that Jesus' gift of himself in the passion was a glorious revelation of love, despite all its injustice and brutality. Bring to mind occasions when the love shown by Jesus in his passion was a sacrament of God's love for you.

2. It would be very cushy for us if we could be a source of life to others without cost to ourselves. True life-givers know that they need the generosity of being lifted up by giving their lives so that others may have life. Recall when you have had that generosity and give thanks for others who have been like that for you.

3. We receive life from God when our faith enables us to trust in God's love for us. We give life to one another when the love between us is trustworthy. Recall memories of that kind of trustworthy love. For whom have you been able to be a 'Jesus person' and give a love that another could trust? Who has shown that kind of love to you and been for you a sacrament of God's love?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryneosa@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—month's mind Sun 25th March—Palm Sunday, Sacred Heart Church, Cargin, Toomebridge at 10:30am), Jimmy McBride

Anniversaries: 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 11th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Shauna Mullen & Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corsecadden

Sun 18th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £717.03, Weekly Collection £74.50, Sick & Retired Priests £21, Shrines £63.

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.

Trocaire: "Motherhood: All love begins and ends there" - Robert Browning. This Mothering Sunday we pray for mothers across the developing world who strive to create a better future for their children. Mothers like those in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia where a hunger crisis still grips the land. Mothers there are doing without food so their children can have a little more to eat. To find out more about Trocaire's Lenten campaign visit www.trocaire.org.

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

St Patrick's Day Masses: The times of Masses are as follows:

Friday 16th March vigil at 7pm (including Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help). Saturday 17th March 10am. —World Meeting

of Families 2018 St Patrick's Day Car Stickers available this weekend.

St. Patrick's Day bi-lingual Mass. Join parishioners at St. Oliver Plunkett's church in Lenadon and start St. Patrick's Day the traditional way - by going to Mass in our native language. Our Bishop of Down & Connor, Noel Treanor, will con-celebrate a bi-lingual Mass at 10.00am. It will be a great opportunity to commemorate our national Saint and also use however much (or little) of the Irish that we have. Prayers and hymns in Irish will be on a large screen so everyone can join in. Visitors from other parishes are particularly welcome. There will be refreshments served up afterwards in the Parish Hall and a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Tá fáilte roimh gach duine!

Liturgies for Holy Week For the liturgies of Palm Sunday and Holy Week we will be needing extra Ministers of the Word for the Passion Narratives, and for the Easter Vigil. If you are willing, please fill in sheet in Sacristy.

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 12th March, 9th & 23rd April. St Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, Belfast. Handouts available in the sacristy for those who cannot attend.

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 Noleen 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 ext 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 after this weekend's masses, so that Willowfield can help organise numbers. As yet only two parishioners have given names to Fr McCann. See poster in porch.

Holy Shop at Adoration Convent. First Communion gifts, prayer books, rosaries, and accessories are available in our convent shop, St Joseph's, at very reasonable prices. We also carry a range of items for baptism, confirmation, prayer cards, candles, icons, the nursery and Catholic Children's books. What we don't stock we can order! Adoration Convent, 63 Falls Road, Belfast. Open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (except 11:30 -2pm). Tel 028 9024 7175.

Iona Institute NI Conference: 'Into your hands...', Achieving Best Care at Life's End. Keynote speaker: Baroness Nuala O'Loan. Caring for a loved one who is terminally ill is one of the greatest challenges any of us can face. This conference organised will explore the ethics of end of life care from a philosophical, medical, legal, and pastoral perspective and will be of interest to all those who seek to achieve best care as our life journey ends. 24th March in St Mary's University College 191 Falls Road Belfast BT12 6FE. For further details please contact Iona Institute NI, email: ionainstituteni@gmail.com, phone: 028 92 646861, web: <https://ionainstituteni.org/>. Early booking is essential. See poster in the Porch.

Meeting for Returned Lay Missionaries & Volunteers. The next meeting for returned volunteers & lay missionaries who have worked overseas will take place on Wed 14th March at 7.00 pm in the Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Glenview St, off Oldpark Rd, Belfast. All are welcome. For more info email jim.farrell@amri.ie or phone/text + 353 83 8422468.

Women's World Day of Prayer. Due to the adverse weather last week and various cancellations of these services, there is one Service organised and being held in May Street Presbyterian Church on Friday 16th March at 11am, to which anyone is most welcome.

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.