

Parish Newsletter

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 18 March 2018
Year B | Issue 16

PARTNERS IN THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Springtime is the season for sowing seeds. The soil must be prepared whether on a small or large scale. Farmers and gardeners prepare the ground in fields and pots so that seeds can germinate and grow, giving grain and flowers in the summer and autumn. Every year we automatically await the annual process of preparing and planting in the assumption that with the assistance of rain and sunlight nature will again produce its bounty for eating and its beauty for enjoyment.

Jesus often drew on images from nature to indicate the intention of his heavenly Father for creation and for the people called into the community of His Kingdom. From tiny seeds scattered in hope to well stocked barns after the harvest, through the nets of fishermen hauling in a catch that could break what is contained in them, Jesus invited his hearers to imagine what the Reign of God could bring.

This involved a call to ongoing conversion, to a continual change of

Today's Readings



Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 50:3-4, 12-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

(continued on back page)

heart, praying to God for the gift of a heart that has been purified and for a place always in God's presence. His saying about the necessity of the seed dying in order to bear fruit is more than a statement of natural necessity. It is the condition for discipleship, the norm for following Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and the cross. 'By suffering for us he not only gave us an example

'Mercy gives rise to joy, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life.'

– Pope Francis (*Misericordia et Misera*)

so that we might follow in his footsteps, but he also opened up a way'.

This line from the Second Vatican Council links with the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. Jesus is not only

Reflection

How can I bear fruit for the good of others and the glory of God?

Lesson

'Jesus' whole life, his complete self-giving is precious and reveals the mystery of his divine life'. (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 265).

Prayer

Lord, through the example of your self-giving lead me to die to selfishness.

a model of moral goodness, setting and showing a standard of virtuous living. In walking the way of the cross that results in his laying down his life, Jesus reveals the love for the world that leads us beyond diminishment, destructiveness and death. The seed dying symbolises Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He is infinitely more than a role model, incarnating the means of redemption, for 'having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation'.

The whole of his life, with the eloquence of his words, with the energy of his works and even with his weakness, is a witness to his willingness to die on the cross. This fifth and final Sunday in the season of Lent shows us the spiritual meaning and sacramental means of sharing in the paschal mystery of Jesus. Being converted and becoming conformed to Christ bears fruit in us so that we can bring our contribution to the harvest God hopes for in heaven. ■

This Week (19–25 March)

- 19 **Mon** JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF MARY
- 20 **Tue** St Cuthbert
- 21 **Wed** St Enda, abbot
- 22 **Thur** St Nicholas Owen; St Lea
- 23 **Fri** St Turibius de Mogrovejo, bishop
- 24 **Sat** St Catherine of Sweden; St Macartan, bishop
- 25 **Sun** PASSION SUNDAY (Palm Sunday)





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,
hennymccann@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)



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 12:20-30

1. The parable of the grain of wheat reminds us of a truth that any parent can testify to, namely that it is in dying to ourselves that we can give life to others. We will never be of benefit to others if we remain wrapped up in ourselves. In what ways has your dying to yourself brought life to another? How has the generous giving of another brought life to you?

2. Sometimes our emotions rebel at the thought of what lies ahead and we feel like praying Father, save me from this hour. Then a realisation may come for you as a parent, a teacher, a spouse, a friend: No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Recall times when you have accepted pain or hassle and been a source of life to others for doing so.

3. The story presents the death of Jesus as the moment of his glorification by God. We are also glorified when the grace of God enables us to give generously of ourselves. When have you experienced this in yourself or in another?

4. 'This voice has come for your sake and not for mine.' The angel spoke that we might recognise the love being shown to us by Jesus. Sometimes it requires the voice of another to draw our attention to love that is being offered to us. When was this your experience?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Daniel Joseph (Don) Owens, (father of Fr Peter), Janina Halaburda, Terry McCann (brother of Fr Henry—month's mind Sun 25th March—Palm Sunday, Sacred Heart Church, Cargin, Toomebridge at 10:30am), Jimmy McBride, Jude Offodum

Anniversaries: Mary Hughes, Frederick Charles McGreevy (Sat 10th March at 6:30pm), Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 18th March at 11:30am).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 25th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection €699.20, Monthly Stipend £35, Sick & Retired Priests £10, Shrines £70.53, Anonymous Donation £1000.

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. New boxes available from next weekend 24/25th March.

Trócaire: "...to lend your neighbour a helping hand is to keep the commandments." Ecclesiasticus / Sirach 29:1. This St. Patrick's weekend we celebrate the huge change brought about in the developing world which is made possible by the generosity of people in Ireland. Trócaire reached 2.6 million people last year with support - parents trying to feed their children, communities struck by disaster, refugees fleeing conflict, men and women whose rights were being trampled. This support can only be provided by the ongoing solidarity shown by people here at home. www.trocaire.org. **Trócaire boxes:** Convert coins to notes and place into envelope provided, and write names and addresses on envelopes. Make

cheques available to Trócaire. And return on Holy Thursday or ASAP.

Lenten Devotions: Stations of the Cross each Friday at 6:15pm before Mass. Last Lenten Stations this Friday 23rd March.

Penitential Services in the South and East Belfast Pastoral Area:

St Colmcille's 25th March, Palm Sunday at 3pm

St Brigid's 25th March, Palm Sunday at 4pm

Holy Rosary 26th March, Monday of Holy Week at 7:30pm

Drumbo & Carryduff 27th March, Tuesday of Holy Week at 7:30pm

St Bernadette's 28th March, Wednesday of Holy Week at 7:30pm

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 a slot on the sheet.

Times of Liturgies for Holy Week:

Mon & Tues: Masses at 9:30am

Holy Thursday: 1) Chrism Mass in Cathedral 11am. All welcome.

2) Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm followed by procession to the Altar of Repose, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Night Prayer at 10pm.

Good Friday: Passion of the Lord 3pm (English), 8pm (Polish).

Holy Saturday: Blessing of Food (Polish) 9:30-1pm.

Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection at 9:30pm.

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 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 Noelcen 07879 498131.

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.

The Elmwood Chamber Orchestra Concert. The Elmwood Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Fr Gerard Magee (Chaplain, Queen's University, Belfast) will present a concert of music by JS Bach, Bela Bartok and Ludwig van Beethoven, on Saturday 14th April, 2018, at 3pm in the College Hall, St Malachy's College, 36 Antrim Road, Belfast. Ticket prices (at the door): Students £5, Non-students £10. All enquiries to g.magee@downandconnor.org.

Feast of Divine Mercy. The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated in Belfast on 8th April in:

St. Peter's Cathedral, Falls Road - starts at 2:15pm with Holy Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass.

St. Paul's Church, Falls Road - starts at 1:30 with Exposition and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Holy Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass.

Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road - starts at 2:30 with Holy Rosary and Sacrament of Reconciliation; Divine Mercy Chaplet; and Mass.

Mary's Meals will be having a Sale and Raffle next Sunday 25th March (Palm Sunday). Ballot Tickets are on sale this weekend. All proceeds to Mary's Meals. Thank you for your support.

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.