

# Parish Newsletter

PASSION SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY) | 25 March 2018  
Year B | Issue 17

## DIVINE HUMILITY

Memories of the recent Saint Patrick's Day parades may still be fresh in people's minds. The annual commemoration is celebrated on national and local levels with events entertaining large crowds. Groups and clubs, bands and floats pass through the main streets of cities and towns all over the country and a selection of these proceedings are shown on a special television programme later in the evening. Marching bands and overseas visitors offer an international flavour. Saint Patrick is portrayed in a variety

of guises adding to the enjoyment of participants and spectators.

Jesus and his disciples would have encountered similar, even greater excitement engendered by the crowds on their entrance to Jerusalem. Palm Sunday processions throughout the world often try to replicate this event, especially with the waving of palms and the singing of psalms. The engagement of the crowd and their exclamation of 'Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David' could have gone to the disciples' heads,

### Today's Readings



Isaiah 50:4-7  
Psalm 21:8-9.17-20.23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47

### Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 10:34.37-43  
Psalm 117:1-2.16-17.22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8  
John 20:1-9

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thinking that they were coming to the end of their journey with Jesus, having arrived at what they thought was their destiny. The expectation of the establishment of a kingdom and the earning of their rewards might very well have been part of the equation and calculation of the disciples.

History testifies that victory marches through capital cities was a sign of success seen in terms of conquest and control. However, the opening of today's liturgy looks to 'the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation'. No longer dependent on the emperor's thumbs up or down, we are 'made by his grace partakers of the Cross [so that] we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life'. The end which Jesus' entry

into Jerusalem envisages is Easter and eternal life.

The opening prayer of the Mass highlights the example of Jesus' humility. This is seen earlier in the sight of him entering the city on the back of a colt (Saint John states that 'Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it'). In the second reading Saint Paul speaks of the procession of Christ Jesus through human existence, emptying himself in order to be a slave and becoming even more humble in submitting to execution on the cross.

The victory parade that Jesus leads through his Resurrection is not one of domination but of the destruction of death, not of control over others but of compassion offered to all, not of the ostentation of success but of the overcoming of sin. In the concluding prayer we humbly beseech the Lord to lead us in the triumphal procession of hope.

— Kevin O'Gorman SMA

### Reflection

How does the Lord want to enter my life this Palm Sunday?

### Lesson

'The Church greets the Lord in the Holy Eucharist as the one who is coming now, the one who has entered into her midst. At the same time, she greets him as the one who continues to come, the one who leads us toward his coming' (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth – Holy Week, p. 11).

### Prayer

Lord, lead me in Holy Week through the humility of Jesus to where you call.

### This Week (26 March – 1 April)

- 26 Mon** Monday of Holy Week
- 27 Tue** Tuesday of Holy Week
- 28 Wed** Wednesday of Holy Week
- 29 Thur** HOLY THURSDAY
- 30 Fri** GOOD FRIDAY
- 31 Sat** HOLY SATURDAY
- 1 Sun** EASTER SUNDAY





# 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)



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 14:1-15:47

1. *The injustice and brutality of the Passion of Jesus make it a difficult story to read as good news. Yet in the midst of that cruelty the courageous, faithful and self-sacrificing love that Jesus showed for us shines through. Recall moments when the account of the Passion has moved you in a special way. How have you experienced blessing through it?*

2. *Human love can also be painful. When have you experienced the courage, fidelity and self-sacrifice of others in their love of you? When have you shown that kind of love to others, as a parent, a spouse, or a friend, or in some other relationship?*

3. *We read the Passion story in the light of the resurrection. What seemed a humiliating and shameful failure for Jesus was not the end of the story. Perhaps with hindsight you can look back on something in your own life that seemed like a tragedy at the time but out of that tragedy new life and new possibilities followed for you.*

4. *For each of us there arise situations in which we feel things are outside our control and we are utterly helpless and powerless. We are not alone in this experience. In his Passion Jesus is one with us in this human helplessness. When have you found that the presence of another with you helped you through a crisis? When have you been able to help another with your presence?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

**Recently Deceased:** 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, Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher.

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 1st April

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Shauna Mullen

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Needy Parishes £474.62, Weekly Collection £259.60, Shrines £92.38.

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 this weekend 24/25th March. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann

**Trócaire:** 24/25 March: "O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalms 118:1. This Palm Sunday we celebrate God's love that is manifested by the support we give to those in the world who are less fortunate than us and face daily hardship. People like Daniel from Uganda who appeared on the Trócaire Box in 2012 aged 9. Daniel is now 15 and doing well in school. The support Daniel's family received ensured that he and his siblings could get an education and dream of a better future. [www.trocaire.org](http://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.

**Lifting of Suspension of Sign of Peace and sharing of the chalice.** Upon review of the levels of risk attached to the flu virus earlier in the year when the Sign of Peace, and the sharing from the chalice, were suspended you will wish to note that the level of risk has now reduced and the Sign of Peace and sharing from the chalice may once again be used in the celebration of the liturgy.

### 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.

A copy of the Liturgy with Examination of Conscience (pink sheet) is available in the porch.

**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) Christ 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.

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

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

**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](mailto: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 this Sunday 25th March (Palm Sunday). Ballot Tickets are on sale before and after 11.30am mass. All proceeds to Mary's Meals. Thank you for your support.

**Easter Monday Open Day at Drumalis, Lame, Monday, 2 April from 12 noon - 4 pm.** The house and grounds will be open for all to enjoy - there will be opportunities for guided tours of the heritage house. Afternoon teas will be available. Everyone is welcome - admission is free. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact 028 28272196/28276455 (during office hours - Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm)

**Handel's Messiah, a dramatic staging** by John Ramster, in its ninth tour, already seen by over 7000 people, will be hosted in St Katherine's Parish Church, 2-4 Dunlambert Park, Belfast BT15 3NJ, on Friday 6th April 2018 at 7pm. £15. Box Office: [www.merryopera.co.uk](http://www.merryopera.co.uk) or 07933 588355 and at the door. See poster.

**Time for a New Challenge.** Are you interested in becoming a Facilitator with ACCORD Catholic Marriage Care Service, Ireland's leading provider of marriage preparation courses? Would you like to share your positive married experience with engaged couples preparing for their married life together? ACCORD is a voluntary Catholic organisation that aims to promote a deeper understanding of Christian marriage and to offer people the means to safeguard and nourish their marriage and family relationships. Professional training is provided - Certificate in Marriage Education (Special Purpose Award) Accredited by: Pontifical University, St Patrick's College Maynooth. Please contact ACCORD Belfast Centre, 02890 339944. Email [belfast@accordni.com](mailto:belfast@accordni.com) for further information. Closing Date - 27th APRIL 2018. ACCORD - centres Nationwide. More information is available on: [www.accord.ie](http://www.accord.ie)

**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.