

# Parish Newsletter

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / ST PATRICK | 17 March 2019  
Cycle C | Issue 16

## ONE OF OUR OWN

As I write, the third grand-niece has appeared. Yes, it's 3-0 to the ladies in the latest generational chain of our family tree! Instinctively when we glimpse a newly-born we see signs of their parents, grandparents and relations; a chin, an eye, a nose, a particular way of holding their head. We look for signs of the familiar. I suppose in it's our way of saying of the child 'he/she is one of our own.' It used to be a much-used phrase to describe

someone, sometimes at a social gathering. To hear the words 'one of our own' – was their way of saying 'We accept you'.

I wonder when I look at images of St Patrick, have we truly and perhaps untruthfully made him one of our own: green vestments, crozier in one hand, a shamrock in the other. Not bad for a Welshman (probably Welsh if we are correct about the location of

### Today's Readings



Amos 7:12-15  
Psalm 138:1-3,7-10,13-14  
1 Thessalonians 2:2-8  
Luke 5:1-11

### Next Sunday's Readings



Exodus 3:1-8,13-15  
Psalm 102:1-4,6-8,11  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12  
Luke 13:1-9

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his birthplace 'Bannaven Taberniae' as described in *The Confessions*)! Patrick is a fascinating character and has something for everyone. The unwilling migrant (he came as a slave), member of a very fluid world coming from the declining Roman Empire. He had a deep sense of identity and sustaining faith in the most challenging of circumstances. He didn't need geographical borders to describe who he was. I have always found, in the shifting sands of politics and people's incessant need to draw borders, that faith in Christ knows no boundaries. Being part of a believing community has knitted me in prayer with people all over the world. It's always been so. Take Willibrod of York, Carlow and then Europe: an Englishman whose signature is the oldest datable signature of an English person. Or Columbanus,

the first European, who set off via Carlow and Wexford to Bangor, then Annegray and Bobbio in mainland Europe.

Some 1600 years on, it is not unlike the time of St Patrick. He got his personal identity from prayer. We have churches and Angelus bells – whatever about them being silenced. St Patrick had so little. All that he needed to remind him of his dignity as a child of God lay within.

In honouring St Patrick we include and do not exclude. We are part of a large family.

We are all one in Christ – your ethnic origin is irrelevant.

**Happy St Patrick's Day!**

– Tom Cox



### Reflection

We often think about the effects of Christianity on Ireland. What about the effects of Ireland on Christianity?

### Lesson

Go out to the whole world: proclaim the Good News.

### Prayer

Lord, Your word is effective it brings us to conversion and sends us on your mission. Make of us authentic disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### This Week (18-24 March)

- 18 Mon** St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and doctor
- 19 Tue** JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BVM
- 20 Wed** St Cuthbert, bishop
- 21 Thur** St Enda, abbot
- 22 Fri** St Nicholas Owen, martyr
- 23 Sat** St Turibius de Mongrovejo, bishop
- 24 Sun** THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



The Parish of St Anthony's is part of the Diocese of Down and Connor and operates in accordance with the Diocesan Privacy Notice, copies of which are available in porch.

# 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)



## 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR C FEAST OF ST PATRICK

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 6:17, 20-26

1. We are told that Jesus 'fixed his eyes on the disciples' before speaking. This suggests that he was about to say something that he really wanted them to take in. Surprisingly he then tells them it is no bad thing for us to be poor or hungry. But perhaps you have recognised the truth in what St. Augustine said: 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.'

2. 'Blessed are you who weep' is not an encouragement to be miserable. Rather it is an affirmation of the importance of loving relationships in life. We are blessed to have such people in our lives, but there may also be pain. Yet is it not true that the blessing of loving and being loved is worth the price you pay?

3. Jesus said that his followers would be open to opposition and ridicule because of him, and that they are blessed when this happens. Unpleasant it may, but have you not been grateful on those occasions when you had the courage to stand by something that you believed in?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Brigid Curran, Mary Hughes, Terence McCann, Patrick, Catherine & Tommy Bell & Tommy Bell Jr, Fred McGreevy, Susan Gallagher, Fr Pat Gallagher (Sun 17th Mar at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 17th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 24th March

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Phyllis Mc Grillen

Morning Mass: Martina McCrory & 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 £588.85, Shrines £103.40

**Sign of Peace:** "As the winter season comes to an end, and noting the below normal levels of Flu-like illness in the community, we would advise that the practice of suspending the sign of peace may be ended. The advice regarding good hand hygiene as a method of preventing the spread of flu and other illnesses remains valid throughout the year." Diocesan Email

**Lenten Stations of the Cross.** Every Friday in Lent after 7pm Novena Mass.

**Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2019: Living in Fear.** For further information visit www.trocaire.org. You can support the Lent Campaign now by picking up your 2019 Trócaire Box in the Church Porch.

**Lenten Pioneer Pledge.** Please consider taking the short term Lenten Pledge and make a difference to someone's life. Register your pledge with local Pioneers and say the daily prayer. Prayer: "I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during Lent."

'Strictly Come Dancing' in aid of the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Join us for a superb evening of fun and entertainment in Carryduff Parish Centre on

the 15th March 2019 at 7.30pm. Ticket: £15 for Adults, £7.50 for children. Can be ordered through the Carryduff Parish Office on 028 9081 2238 or drumbo@downandconnor.org.

### Drumbo & Carryduff Parish Pilgrimage To Rome, Assisi & Cascia.

Spiritual Directors- Fr Conor McGrath Fr Dominic Mc Grattan. Due to cancellations spaces have become available. Including Divine Mercy Sunday in Rome. 6 Night Pilgrimage to Assisi, Cascia, Rome & Vatican City. 27 April- 03 May 2019. Package price from £945.00 pps. Single rooms now available. Application form available in the Parish Office on 90812238 opt 2.

**Preparing For Lent in Holy Rosary Parish: Lenten Talks** exploring the question, "What is Catholicism?" will be presented in Holy Rosary Parish Community Centre each Tuesday evening at 7pm during Lent. They will be given by the Rev Anthony Briody from Donegal. (Deacon Anthony will be ordained next summer as a priest for the Raphoe Diocese and is at present working with Living Church while also studying in Maynooth).

**Shalom Retreat - Friday 5th to Sunday 7th April** in Drumalis Retreat Centre, Larne. Be a part of this exciting weekend where you will rekindle your identity in Christ! Prayer, praise, reconciliation, Mass and encouragement for the journey ahead. A retreat that will shine the light of Christ into your heart and lead you to forgiveness, freedom and healing. Book now £150 per person. Full board with coffee/tea breaks. Register at www.shalommedia.org/retreat or contact Roshni George T:07737 430 680 or Jacinta T:07756 225 114.

**Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).** Fr John O'Donoghue, MAfr, will be visiting St Anthony's Parish on the weekend of March 30/31st for the mission appeal. They are one of the groups who make a direct appeal to the people present at mass to contribute to our missionary efforts in a second collection. We look forward to welcoming Fr John and we hope you will be as generous as you can.

**Food Bank.** We are again collecting toiletries and non-perishable foodstuffs as part of a Food Bank working with local parishes. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the bags provided.

**Beloved Disciples.** An inspiring course on 'Spirituality for the over Sixties'. Pope Francis has been reminding us all that 'older people are a treasure'. This profound and enjoyable four week course will help many to feel new value and serve with fresh confidence. Starting on Tuesday 12th March in St Matthew's Presbytery, Bryson Street, Belfast at 10.30am. All welcome.

**Youth 2000 Ulster Retreat** - the next Youth 2000 Ulster retreat will take place in St Macartans College in Monaghan from 12-14th April, for 16 - 35 year olds. Cost: Donation Only! Great CRAIC!!, Excellent Speakers, Inspiring Talks & Workshops, Fantastic music, Group activities, Youth Masses, Adoration, Reconciliation, prayer, Drama, Games & plenty of time to chill out, meet new people and find out what it means to be young & Catholic today!! For more information, details and questions email office@youth2000.ie

**A Lenten Soup & Bread lunch** is being organised by Holy Rosary Parish in aid of TRÓCAIRE. The lunch will be served from 12.30-2.30pm in the Good Shepherd Parish Centre each Sunday throughout the season of Lent. Please join us to enjoy some lunch, chat and support this charity.

**Holy Week Ceremonies Liturgy Sheet.** A sheet for volunteer readers and eucharistic ministers, and other volunteer roles can be found in the Sacristy. They include times, ministries and other roles within the liturgy. Please put your name in the time slots if you are willing to participate.

**Suzanne Hopkins**, chair of the parish pastoral council, and chair of the parish Mary's Meals committee, will be addressing the congregation at this weekend's masses.

**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 McCann PP.