

# Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT | 24 March 2019  
Cycle C | Issue 17

## WHAT WE DON'T DESERVE

**F**rom our earliest days we get used to falling, a toddler trying to walk, a child on a bicycle, in my case falling from a tree house – we learnt about the importance of solid foundations that day! – right up to more personal and wounding emotional falls. Yet it seems to be a time where, if we exhibit an exterior confidence, people assume that all is well and you actually know what you're doing.

'Beware false confidence and putting Christ to the test' seems to be the

caution of St Paul in the Second Reading. He alerts us that if you think you are standing securely, watch out lest you fall. Which is sage advice! Jesus seems to be addressing a twist on this theme, where the fall of others is interpreted as the judgement of God on them. He points to news events of the day, the fall of a tower, a mass murder. Did his hearers have false confidence that such would not happen to them as they were 'better' people?

Today I often hear people mutter

### Today'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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Josiah 5:9-12  
Psalm 33:2-7  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3.11-32

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'karma' if something bad befalls a person they perceive as having done wrong. It's a word I hate to hear. It's funny how it has seeped into our Christian thought, as though it's cool, and that's not right. God's kingdom operates by grace and grace is VERY different from Karma. Regardless of the Buddhist and Hindu origins of Karma with traces in Sikhism and Taoism, Karma is a strange thing. So if you find yourself cut up by a speeding motorist in traffic and later see a Garda has pulled them over and find yourself muttering 'karma' – what are you saying? Karma teaches that you get what you deserve. Worse still, it teaches you to get what your past deserves, even if you had nothing to do

with it. In modern society, people rejoice when the wicked get what they 'deserve' in the form of financial hardship, health issues or relationship struggles. Seriously! How mean-spirited is it to hope that people get what they deserve. Isn't getting what you don't deserve kind of wonderful? And if you think about it – we certainly don't deserve a lot of the blessings we have.

I remember fondly a fellow student at Mass in Maynooth. The Celebrant prayed that we, the exam students, get the marks we deserve. My friend said afterwards to the same priest (now a serving Irish Bishop!) that the prayer wasn't of much use to us students as 'we're praying for marks that we don't deserve'.

Getting what you don't deserve: a gift from God – or as the old hymn puts it 'Amazing Grace'... Let's hope the gardener gives the (as yet) unfruitful tree of our life another chance. ■

– Tom Cox

## Reflection

God wants us to grow and produce the gifts of the Spirit and the fruits of love. Do we desire the same? Are we willing to join God in working out our salvation?

## Lesson

Life is a gift and an opportunity for doing good and pleasing the Father, who is the origin of life.

## Prayer

Lord, your patience is like that of the owner of the vineyard. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit guide us to true repentance that we might produce abundant fruit.

## This Week (25-31 March)

- 25 **Mon** THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
- 26 **Tue** St Braulio
- 27 **Wed** St John of Egypt
- 28 **Thur** St Sixtus III
- 29 **Fri** St Rupert
- 30 **Sat** St John Climacus
- 31 **Sun** FOURTH 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

**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.

henrymccann@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)



## 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR C

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 13:1-9

1. *Jesus rejects the idea that personal misfortune is God's punishment for sin. Yet a serious illness or accident can serve as a wake-up call for how we live our lives. How have such experiences given you a greater appreciation of the value of your life and relationships, and of the time and opportunities at your disposal?*

2. *'I'll wait till tomorrow to do that'. Have you ever said that and then found the chance is gone the next day? In the story we are called to recognise God at work in our lives and respond to Him. Now is the opportune moment. When have you been glad you did not put off action to the following day?*

3. *Perhaps there have been times when you saw yourself like the tree in the parable – useless, merely a waste of space, unable to achieve what you wanted. Think of friends who came to you at such a time, people who saw your potential and were prepared to give you another chance, people who also dug the soil around you and gave you the help you needed to grow. Perhaps in your turn you have been able to do this for others.*

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

## READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 31st March

**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & 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 £501.16, Weekly Collection £323.42, Shrines £268.24.

**New Boxes of Envelopes** are being prepared. If you would like to receive a Box (and sign a Gift Aid declaration), or if your details are changed, please contact Fr McCann ASAP.

**Sign of Peace:** This liturgical ritual is now restored. 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: Defend the Defenders:** Free screening of a short documentary by Trócaire examining the impact of serious human rights violations by some private companies on communities in Guatemala. A short discussion will follow. The Sunflower Bar, Union St on 26th March at 7pm.

**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 will speak at all masses next week-end the 30/31st March on the work of the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) in Africa. A collection will take place for the White Fathers. Your support will be greatly appreciated. The White Fathers were found in Algeria in 1868 and today we are present in 24 African and Middle-Eastern countries. There are about 500 young men, mainly in Africa, preparing to become Missionaries of Africa. An important part of our work is to help them to be the Apostles in the Africa of the future. We come to your parish seeking your help that we may continue to fulfil our part of God's Mission towards all peoples.

**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.

**Action on Hearing Loss will be holding a Hearing Aid Support Session** in Woodstock Library on Tuesday 26th March 5pm – 7pm. We will be offering free hearing aid maintenance for anyone with NHS hearing aids or if anyone is worried about their hearing we can offer a basic hearing check. For more information: For more details contact Iain Irvine, T: 028 9023 9619 ext. 4115. E: iain.irvine@hearingloss.org.uk; W: actiononhearingloss.org.uk.

**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.

**Evangelium Course on the Creed** A course to deepen our understanding of the fundamentals of our faith, as explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, will begin in St Anthony's church after Easter, on Thursdays, 7:30-9pm, starting on Thursday 9th May. If you are interested, contact Fr McCann or put name on sheet in Sacristy.

**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.