



## FINALLY HOME

**B**arak and Michelle Obama took a well-deserved holiday after eight years in the White House to Necker Island.

A predecessor of his did things on a grander scale. The 26th President of the United States who also served eight years, Teddy Roosevelt, began a year-long safari in Africa and a tour of Europe when he left the White House in 1909. When his ship docked in New York following the expedition, he was welcomed home by marching bands, festivities and thousands of cheering people. The story goes that on board the same ship was a missionary couple who had spent

many years in Africa. They had no pension, their health broken, they felt defeated. Before they docked, as the ship moved across the ocean, the old missionary said to his wife, "Something is wrong. Why should we have given our lives in faithful service for God in Africa all these many years and have no one care a thing about us? Here this man comes back from a hunting trip and everybody makes much over him, but nobody gives two hoots about us."

"Dear, you shouldn't feel that way," his wife said. "I can't help it; it doesn't seem right." So at her suggestion, he took it to the Lord in prayer. A

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short time later he came out from the bedroom, but now his face was completely different. His wife asked, "Dear, what happened?"

"The Lord settled it with me," he said. "I told him how bitter I was that the President should receive this

tremendous homecoming when no one met us as we returned home. And when I finished, it seemed as though the Lord put his hand on my shoulder and simply said, 'But you're not home yet!'"

### A sense of coming home

When people ask me about vocation and calling to the priesthood I usually say that I had a sense of coming home, of entering a harbour, that it was right. I've also had the grace of sensing that everything is temporary and the call is to be happy where you are right now. So the idea of somewhere to finally call home has immense appeal.

I wonder what concept Jesus had in mind when he said he would prepare a place for us in the Father's house. Will there be joyous excitement, welcoming friends and heavenly music? We don't know. We do know that the Lord promised a place for us beyond the grave, where life will continue. When we arrive at the Father's house, we will know we are finally home.

— Tom Cox

### Reflection

Prayerfully ponder the meaning of the "dwelling place" he goes to prepare for us.

### Lesson

Jesus explains himself as the way in which God's truth and God's life come to us.

### Prayer

God our Father, in these days of Eastertide help us to see in Jesus' resurrection the goal to which you are calling all of us.

### This Week (15–21 May)

- 15 **Mon** St Isidore the Farmer
- 16 **Tue** St Brendan, abbot
- 17 **Wed** St Paschal Baylon, priest
- 18 **Thur** St John I, pope and martyr
- 19 **Fri** St Celestine V, pope
- 20 **Sat** St Bernardine of Siena, priest
- 21 **Sun** SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Today's Readings



Acts 6:1-7  
Psalm 32:1-2.4-5.18-19  
1 Peter 2:4-9  
John 14:1-12

### Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 8:5-8.14-17  
Psalm 65:1-7.16.20  
1 Peter 3:15-18  
John 14:15-21



# 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)



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 14:1-12

1. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me.' Trust in another person can help us in difficult times. Remember and give thanks for the people you were able to trust in difficult moments. Remember also when your faith in God helped you through anxious moments.

2. Thomas struggled with the desire, which is in all of us, to know exactly the destination before we set out. Jesus invites us to make an act of faith and to take one step at a time. Can you recall times when it helped you to take that trusting attitude to life?

3. Jesus proposed himself to Thomas as the way, the truth and the life. In what ways has Jesus been the way, the truth and the life for you on your faith journey?

4. Philip wanted Jesus to give him a glimpse of God and got the surprising answer 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.' Jesus put a human face on the love of God. He gives us a glimpse of the divine. We are Jesus in the world today, called to follow Jesus and to put a human face on the love of God for those who meet us. Who are the people whose love has helped you to believe in the love of God? To whom have you given an occasional glimpse of the divine?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Catherine McGeeney

Anniversaries: Joseph White, Daniel Doherty, Maureen Kane, Robert Dunn, Michael Matthews (Sun 14th May at 11:30am), Hugh Crilly (Sat 20th May at 6:30pm), Raymond Matthews (Sun 21st May at 11:30am), Kathleen & Jim Burns (Sat 27th May at 6:30pm)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 14th May

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Ann Flanagan

Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 21st May

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly €678.69, Easter Collection £5, Weekly £38, Legion of Mary Hostels £390.66, Trócaire £1041.34 Shrines £80.49. **NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE.** If your details have changed, or if you would like to register for a box, please give your details to Fr McCann as soon as possible. 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.

**Annual Diocesan Collection for our Student Priests (Sunday 21st May 2017).** There are currently eight young men in training for priesthood for the diocese, one of whom, Manuelito is a deacon. The other students are Tony, Christopher, Stefan, David, Christopher, John, Kevin. Please remember them in your prayers. The second collection on the Sixth Sunday of Easter is the yearly collection for the education of our student priests. Thank you for your support of this collection last year. Your continued support of this annual church collection on Sunday 21st May 2017 is again requested. Your financial contribution is another concrete

way of supporting our students as they journey towards priesthood for service in our parishes.

**Cantiunculae Concert—Date for your diary.** Fr McCann's choir will be staging the following concert: Cantiunculae Faure's Requiem with the McDonnell Trio, Friday 19th May in St Anthony's Church, Willowfield, at 7pm. Proceeds in aid of Renovation of the Willowfield COI Parish Hall. See Poster and flyers in Church Porch. [Please note Mass on that day will be at 9:30am].

**QUB Research Project.** Deborah Hyden, a PhD student at Queens University has approached me to ask for volunteer parishioners to participate in a research project entitled Experiences of Neighbourhood and Community Life in Northern Ireland. She suggests that 3 couples could be involved in this project. If you are interested you can collect consent forms in the sacristy.

**Fundraising Festival of Brass.** Holywood Parish Asha Support Group are having a fundraising Festival Brass concert with special guest Peter Corry on Friday 26th May 2017 at 7-4.5pm in Holywood Parish Church. We would be delighted if you are free to join us. Tickets cost £15 and can be purchased on line at [www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk/event/festival-brass-in-concert/](http://www.hollywoodparishchurch.co.uk/event/festival-brass-in-concert/)

**First Holy Communion Congratulations to Loughview Integrated PS** where 13 children received First Holy Communion on Saturday 6th May at 10am Mass.

**Polish Community: 1st Confessions** Sat 13th May at 10am. **1st Holy Communion** Sun 14th May at 1pm. Please keep them in your prayers

**Lough Derg 2017:-** Season opens for One Day Retreats on Monday 1st May. Retreats continue on May 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29. Advance booking is essential. Tel. 071 9861518 (from NI 0035371 9861518) or email [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org). The Three Day Pilgrimage season begins on Thursday 1st June, pre-booking not required. You are invited to walk in the spiritual footsteps of your ancestors and be part of the unbroken link of Lough Derg as a place of continuous prayer for over 50 generations (1,500 years).

**St Anthony's Choir Recordings.** New recordings of "This Joyful Eastertide" and "Bonum Est" can be found on the parish website [www.saintanthony.co.uk](http://www.saintanthony.co.uk).

**The Rosminian Fathers Annual Novena in honour of Saint Jude.** Calvary, Omearth, From Saturday, 3rd of June 2017 To Sunday, 11th of June 2017. Mass Each Evening at 7:30pm. **HEALING MASS ON SUNDAY, 11 JUNE AT 7:30pm.** This year our celebrant will be Fr. Oliver Stansfield I.C.

**A Day of Prayer for Our Land in Clonard Monastery, Belfast on Saturday 20th May 2017 between 1pm and 5.00pm.** This follows very blessed Days of Prayer which took place at St. Anne's Cathedral in September and at Lisburn Cathedral in February. This day will be an opportunity to help people to find God's peace personally and also to pray for the nation as we approach another election. With all of this in our minds and hearts, this is a very significant time for people to come together and to seek God's help and direction. For some people, their peace may have been disturbed during the years of "The Troubles". For others it could be anxieties, fears, and hurts that have arisen in recent times. Saturday 20th May will be an opportunity to lay down those burdens, to forgive, to say sorry, and to pray for the future of our country. The focal point will be a large plain wooden cross at the front of the church. All the prayer will be in silence with short reflections every 30 minutes. There will be a particular opportunity for clergy to gather around the Cross at 1pm and women at 3pm. This Day is for people to come as individuals before God, and through that encounter, however long or short, to find His peace. People may come and go they please and everyone is welcome. The hours of prayer will be 1pm to 5.00 pm. • Personal prayer will be available for anyone who wishes to receive it. • There will be refreshments available throughout the day.

**Simon Community Volunteers:** Saturday 03 June - Collection for Simon Community at local Spar shops on Holywood Road, Upper Newtownards Road and Knock Dual Carriage Way. If anyone would be able to spare an hour or two to help with our collection anytime between the hours of 9.30am and 5.30pm it would be greatly appreciated as we are very short of volunteers. If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, on the office number below or on my mobile 07935 850116.

**Down and Connor Living Church Three Day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg.** Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th June 2017. Transport to be confirmed. Cost: £60. Please contact Geraldine Mullan : Tel: 028 90690920. Email: [livingchurch@downandconnor.org](mailto:livingchurch@downandconnor.org). Lough Derg guides are available in the porch.

**Our Lady of Fátima 100th Anniversary Celebrations.** As part of these celebrations a booklet on the story and message of Fátima is available in the porch. It describes the apparitions and a reflection on the messages, and is based on a booklet devised by Fr Pat Sheehan, of the Parish of the Nativity, Poleglass. More copies can be made.

**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.