

Parish Newsletter



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | 6 May 2018
Cycle B | Issue 23

COMMISSIONED TO BEAR FRUIT

There is great satisfaction when an effort to help another person works out well.

Of course not every loving gesture brings an immediate positive result even when the other person is somebody highly significant to us – a spouse, a parent, a child, a dear friend, and one of the most devastating personal experiences is to feel that we are useless. We can only offer others

our love and support. We cannot live their lives for them. It is up to them to make their own decisions.

What we have in today's gospel is an encouraging reminder of our worth:

1. That each of us is chosen
2. And commissioned to be fruitful.

That is why we are here. We are here to make a difference, to be a significant influence for good in the lives of others – and that is true of each human

Today's Readings



Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Psalm 97:1-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 4:1-13
Mark 16:15-20

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being, even those not of our faith. St Peter confirms that in the first reading: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

3. Jesus also tells us that it is only through our love of one another that we will have the chance to have this positive influence.



Jesus does not tell his disciples that everything they do will be successful.

Love shown to others is a bit like seed being scattered. Some will fall on stony ground and bear no fruit. Other seed will land on receptive ground and bear fruit, some thirty, some sixty and some a hundredfold. Yet if love is the dominant motivation in our lives, Jesus is telling us that at the end of our lives we will be able to look back on a life where we have been a significant influence for good along the way.

In that intimate setting at the last supper, Jesus has a sense of what lay ahead for him the following day. He is searching around for a final message to give them. He, who is going to be a victim of violence and hatred, tells his friends that there is another way to live. Love is the way to a better life. Love is the way to a fuller life. Love is the way to make a positive contribution to the world. Love is the way that will make our joy complete. ■

– John (Peter) Byrne

Reflection

What encourages you to continue loving when there is little response?

Lesson

It is by love that our lives will be fruitful.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you gave your life that we might have life;

help us to live our lives to enrich the lives of others.



This Week (7–13 May)

- 7 Mon** St John of Beverly, bishop
- 8 Tue** St Victor
- 9 Wed** St Pachomius
- 10 Thur** St Comgall, bishop, St Damien of Molokai
- 11 Fri** St Francis di Girolamo, priest
- 12 Sat** Ss Nereus and Achilleus; St Pancras, martyrs
- 13 Sun** ASCENSION OF THE LORD



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)



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 15:9-17

1. A commandment of love could seem a contradiction in terms. Love is a free choice. That is what gives the thrill to the experience of being loved. Recall times when you received gestures of love from another – a spontaneous embrace from a husband or wife; a wave from a friend; words of comfort and affirmation – not because the other person felt obliged to reach out to you but because they wanted to let you know that you were loved. What effect did that have on you? Did it bring you joy? Perhaps you have had a glimpse of the truth of what Jesus said, that it is in loving that our joy is complete.

2. Often love and friendship make demands on us. Parents give freely of their times and energy to the care of their children but sometimes it requires a lot of effort. Also in responding to the needs of friends or spouses we can be challenged to 'lay down' our own 'lives' at least for a time. Can you recall when a time when putting yourself out for others bore fruit for them and for you?

3. 'I chose you.' Have you had the experience of being 'chosen' by someone? What was it like for you to be chosen? What is it like for you to consider yourself as one chosen by Jesus? That is what we are – chosen by Jesus to bear fruit through our love.

John Byrne OSA. Email jphyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Fr Martin O'Callaghan, Dympna Kelso (aunt and godmother of Fr McCann), Veronica Black (funeral St Anthony's Wed 9th May at 10am)

Anniversaries: John Riordan, Evelyn Walls & Winnie McPhillips, John Mahoney, May Riordan, Olive McCormick, Mairead Hughes, Daniel Doherty, Robert Dunn, Emily Shields (Thurs 10th May at 9:30am), Hugh Crilly (Sat 19th May at 6:30pm), Margaret Murray (1st Anniv Sat 26th May at 6:30pm).

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 6th May

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 13th May

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections:

Weekly Collection £650.79, Monthly Stipend £25, Shrines £84.68

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 in sacristy. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann.

St Anthony's 80th Anniversary: This year we celebrate 80 years since the first mass was celebrated in St Anthony's Church. We, the current parishioners, will be hosting events during the year to celebrate this milestone and the year will culminate with a mass on Tuesday 16th October 2018 @ 7.30pm. The meeting last Tues looked at various aspects of the celebration. Many thanks to all who attended. If you have any photographs/personal stories of your time in St Anthony's, contact Fr McCann. An update to the 50th Anniversary Booklet is being sought. Your photographs/personal stories will be included with your permission. Please stay tuned for other initiatives for the 80th Anniversary celebrations.

World Meeting of Families – Tickets and Registration. • Everyone who registers online to attend one or three days of the Pastoral Congress (22-24 August), is guaranteed to receive tickets for the Festival of Families (Croke Park, Saturday 25th

August) and the Final Mass (Phoenix Park, Sunday 26th August). • Those who only wish to register for the Festival of Families or the Final Mass need to be aware that tickets will be limited subject to venue capacity and availability. • To register online please go to www.worldmeeting.ie/en/Tickets/Tickets-Registration. • To enquire about accommodation please go to www.worldmeeting.ie/en/Ireland/Accommodation. • Alternatively call the national office – 0035316909409. • If you have any other queries contact the Diocesan Office – family@downandconnor.org. In order for the pastoral areas to organise buses/transport please advise the Parishes if you have a ticket and would like to attend ASAP.

Polish First Confession / Holy Communion:

First Confession: Saturday 12th May at 10am. First Holy Communion: Sunday 13th May at 1pm.

Dromantine Retreat and Conference Centre Events:

Nurturing Faith in the Family Two young couples and parents, Paula and Joe McKeown and Lynette and Bosco McShane, well used to the pressures of modern family life, will lead us in a day of reflection, prayer and storytelling, focusing on how we can grow in our walk with God within the family setting, how best to nurture the faith of our children. Date: 16th June Cost £35/€40 Registration 9.30am.

Restoration through Friendship 19th May. Celebrating 30 years of Restoration Ministries and reflecting on the ongoing challenge of peace and reconciliation in our divided society. Speakers: V. Rev. Dr. John Dunlop, Former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev Dr. Ruth Patterson, Director Restoration Ministries. Time: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm. Cost: £20 including lunch and coffee. For further details, contact 028 30821964 (048 from ROI) email: admin@dromantineconference.com. Visit our web site www.dromantineconference.com.

Living Church Down & Connor Lough Derg Pilgrimage. The sixth Living Church Lough Derg 3 day Pilgrimage will take place this year from Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July 2018. The pilgrimage will be the traditional three day format. Please consider coming along. The cost of the pilgrimage is £65. We are now offering two departure points Belfast and Ballycastle. For details of travel arrangements and to book a place please call the Living Church Office on 02890690920 or email livingchurch@downandconnor.org by Friday 15th June. Registration forms on request from Living Church Office or your Parish Office.

Festival of Choral Music in May. All four events taking place in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Newcastle:

1. Eastertide Vespers - Senior Choir, on Thursday, 3rd May at 7.30pm. No ticket required.
2. Cappella Caeciliana Concert, (Organist Stephen Hamill), Sunday, 13th May at 5.00pm. Ticket cost £10, available at Parish office/shop/sacristy or Ruffles Boutique or at the door on the evening.
3. South Down Choral Society, Friday, 18th May at 7.30pm, Bob Chilcott's Little Jazz Mass & Fauré's Requiem. Ticket cost £10, available at Ruffles Boutique or at the door on the evening.
4. Visiting Indian Choir, Monday, 28th May at 7.00pm. No ticket required, retiring collection only & The Ulster Society of Organists' Recital, Saturday, 9th June at 3.00pm (Presbyterian Church) and from 4.00pm Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

"Wellsprings of Your Future"-The Social Teaching of the Church, Bishop Noel Treanor's Pastoral Letter to Students and Young People available in the Church Porch.

Women's World Day of Prayer, Northern Ireland, 75th Anniversary Service, Sat 12th May 2018 at 2pm, Assembly Buildings, Fisherwick Place, Belfast. Join us for a service of thanksgiving Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Heather Morris. For more details: 028 90768155, wwdp.ni@gmail.com, or visit www.wwdp.org.uk. Poster in porch.

St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, Whitehouse, Loughshore Parishes 40 Hours Eucharistic Adoration Leading Up To The Feast of Pentecost. Join us for Prayer for the Renewal of Faith in Family Life to Preserve the Sanctity of Life. Beginning with Mass on Friday, 18 May 2018 at 7.30pm, running continuously through to Solemn Mass on Sunday, 20 May 2018 at 10.30am. All individuals and groups are welcome to claim a particular hour. To choose your preferred hour (Beginning On The Half Hour) please contact Sister Kathleen on 028 9086 3128 or E-mail: Kathleen_gill@hotmail.co.uk

Marion Jordan Concert. To promote her new album, "The Prayer", in Saint Malachy's Church, Alfred Street Belfast, on Friday, 1 June 2018 @ 7.30pm. Special guests include Arco String Quartet and Karl McGuckin. Ticket price £12, available online from www.marionjordan.com. Signed copies of the CD available post-concert.

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.