

# Parish Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (Vocations Sunday) | 12 May 2019  
Cycle C | Issue 24

## A LIFE THAT MATTERS

For the second time in consecutive years, my Ordination Class of Maynooth, 1991, has gathered in sadness at the funeral of a classmate: Fintan Morris of Ferns in Summer 2017 and John Cummins of Kildare & Leighlin in January 2019. We have also had the joy of gathering around two classmates called to serve as Bishops: Fintan Monahan of Killaloe and Tom Deenihan of Meath. So, maybe more than most groups of priests, we have reflected on the preciousness of a call,

the beauty of life and how important it is to serve in the moment and place we have been given.

This Sunday is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday, as Christ the Good Shepherd is held before us as our Model, and it's also called World Vocation Sunday. It's also Easter time. The words of John in the Gospel are 'the sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.' The word 'vocation' comes from

### Today's Readings



Acts 13:14,43-52  
Psalm 99:1-3,5  
Apocalypse 7:9,14-17  
John 10:27-30

### Next Sunday's Readings



Acts 14:21-27  
Psalm 144:8-13  
Apocalypse 21:1-5  
John 13:31-35

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the root word 'call'. We tend to think of this as only applying to Priests and Religious and we certainly do need more priests and religious. However, the vocation of a Christian is for everyone – we are called to live up to what Christ asks of us. But do we? Or have we wax in our ears that blocks the call? Do we hear it and not respond to it?

I think my classmates and I all sincerely wished to make a difference in peoples lives and to be more centred in spirituality, in God and to try to live the Gospel more radically. We all have that challenge to live the Gospel more radically, to serve the poor, tend to the sick, think of and work for others.

'Call' is an interesting experience. I recall a conversation with a woman

who, after years with children and family, was discerning what to do next. The kids were gone and she was wondering 'What next?'. She felt a call but was not sure how to respond to it. There wasn't much I could say to her, just to trust in that moment and ask God to reveal to her what path to follow. I can tell you that what was clear was that she knew it was a call to service – that it was about others and not herself, and that it was about living the values that are presented in the Gospel. She just had to work out the details of that! God – the Good Shepherd – wants us to hear the call to live lives that matter, to live lives of depth, to live lives of meaning, to live lives of service. May all of us hear that call on this day.

– Tom Cox

### Reflection

Savour in your heart the complete unity of action between Jesus and the Father.

### Lesson

What Jesus gives is what the Father gave him, a gift greater than all others: eternal life. Jesus in all he does is one with the Father.

### Prayer

Lord, give us new strength through the courage of Christ.

I'm on my way to a place where I'd never dreamed I'd be, and that's perfection.

– Mary J. Blige

### This Week (13-19 May)

- 13 **Mon** Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 **Tue** ST MATTHIAS, APOSTLE
- 15 **Wed** St Isidore the Farmer; St Carthage, bishop
- 16 **Thur** St Brendan, abbot
- 17 **Fri** St Paschal Baylon, priest
- 18 **Sat** St John I, pope and martyr
- 19 **Sun** FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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)

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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)



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 20:19-31

1. *The disciples spend a fruitless night, fishing and catching nothing. Things change dramatically when Jesus appears and invites them to try again. Remember those who came to you and encouraged you to try again when you felt discouraged. Perhaps on some of these occasions the results were beyond your expectations.*

2. *The story can serve as a reminder that sometimes we are wasting our time if we try to work on our own without the Lord's help. When have you found that your work or life was more fruitful when you acknowledged that you needed God's help and you spoke to God about your need?*

3. *After his denials during the passion, Peter is given the chance to be fully reconciled with his Master. Remember those who have given you an opportunity for reconciliation after you had hurt them or let them down. What was it like for you to be given this chance? To whom have you offered the possibility of reconciliation? party line of the day. When you have seen that courage shown, by yourself, or by another? What was the result?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

**Recently Deceased:** Brian McCaughan (brother of Fr Aidan), Winnie Fleming (mother of Fr Paul), Miley McCann, Francie Ferguson, Robert Dunn Jnr (son of Kay Dunn), John Fox (father of Fr Gerard)

**Anniversaries:** John Mahoney, Mary Riordan, Olive McCormick, Cyril Gibson, Dymnna Kelso, Daniel Doherty, Hugh Crilly (Sat 18th May at 6:30pm).

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 12th May

**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kay Dunn

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 19th May

**READERS:**

Easter Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

New Rotas for Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist are available in the sacristy.

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Stipend £511.09, Weekly £28, Shrines £53.78. Lenten Trocaire £840.19

**Food Bank.** Many thanks to all who donated to the food bank. The goods were presented to Willowfield Church of Ireland on Thursday.

**Conclusion Of The Diocesan Novena For Vocations.** The Diocesan Novena has been a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, in churches and homes across the Diocese, to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood here in Down & Connor. Everyone is very welcome to the Cathedral this Good Shepherd Sunday evening (12th May) at 5pm when the Novena will be brought to a conclusion by Bishop Treanor with the celebration of Evening Prayer.

**Evangelium Course on the Creed** A Powerpoint Presentation Course to deepen our understanding of the fundamentals of our faith, as explained in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and showcasing famous church art, continues on Thursday 16th May, 7:30-9pm. If you are interested, contact Fr McCann or put name on sheet in Sacristy.

**Lough Derg Pilgrimages** For 1-day and 3-day pilgrimages see www.loughderg.org, or poster in porch.

**The Child in our Midst.** St. Patrick's College, Maynooth will host a conference on the subject of childhood on June 7th - 8th. The keynote speaker is Annemie Dillen from KULeuven and it will include a number of Plenary and Workshop sessions on topics as varied as Children and the Spirituality of Motherhood and Children's Rights and Catholic Faith. For further information contact specialevents@spcm.ic. To register for Conference www.eventbrite.ie. More information in the porch.

**Living Church Down & Connor Lough Derg Pilgrimage.** The seventh Living Church Lough Derg 3 day Pilgrimage will take place this year from Friday 21st June to Sunday 23rd June 2019. The pilgrimage will be the traditional three day format. Those who took part in the pilgrimage over the last few years spoke of the many blessings they received from being on the island of Lough Derg, as countless people have throughout the years. There is quietness and deep spirituality to be found there that is very special. Please consider coming along. The cost of the pilgrimage is £65. Departure will be from Glengall Street (side of Europa Hotel) Belfast at 9:30am on Friday 21st June. 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 14th June.

**Book Launch- Deeper into the Mess by Fr Brendan McManus, SJ and Jim Deeds** is to be launched on Sunday 19th May at 7 pm in Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, 77 University Street, Belfast. This is the eagerly awaited follow up to the bestselling, Finding God in the Mess. In this new collection the authors address tough issues such as fear, anxiety, suicide and anger. They have received much feedback from workshops based on the first book, and these are some of the topics on which people have asked for help. As well as offering a meditation or a way of praying, the authors suggest scripture and a simple ritual. The book is also available now at <https://www.messenger.ie/product/deeper-into-the-mess-praying-through-tough-times/>. Rev Steve Stockman will launch the book with music, readings from the book and discussion with the authors. All are welcome to come along as we find God in the mess together.

**A Plant Sale will take place outside the Good Shepherd Church on 25/26th May** after all the Masses. It will raise much needed funds to help pay off the remaining debt on the Parish Centre. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Stanton Healthcare Fundraising Ball** - Please join us for an unmissable, urgent Gala Ball, to fundraise for Stanton's life-saving work of supporting women in unplanned pregnancies to choose life, at the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast, at 7.00pm, on Saturday 1st June. For more information or to book your tickets contact Stanton Healthcare Belfast on 028 9033 2882 or info@stantonbelfast.org.

**'The Lumen Fidei Institute' presents a meeting entitled - 'Crisis in the Catholic Church - The Lay Response'** in the Holy Rosary Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Thursday 30th May 2019. The Lumen Fidei Institute seeks to help lay Catholics in promoting, defending, teaching and living out our great calling as children of God. come and hear Anthony Murphy, Editor of Catholic Voice and John Lacken, secretary Lumen Fidei speak on the role of the laity in restoring the Catholic Faith to Ireland.

**Sacraments:** Congratulations to the children of Loughview Integrated Primary School who received First Holy Communion, and to children of the Polish Community who received First Reconciliation and will receive First Holy Communion this weekend.

**Volunteering at St Anthony's.** As previously discussed at Pastoral Council Meetings it was suggested that we needed more people to get involved in helping with tasks within the church. Please find in the church porch a sheet listing roles that parishioners might consider helping out with, and promote a sense of belonging, and avoiding the possibility that the same people do the same thing. Take one with you and tick the section and return to Fr McCann whenever you can and you can be contacted when appropriate.

**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.