

St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

Pastoral Area of South & East Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald), 3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP.
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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stanthonyvsbelfast>.

Website: www.saintanthony.co.uk

PUBLIC MASS TIMES—COVID-19 ERA (will be under assessment/review)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am, & 6:30pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Mon, Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7.00pm.

All English Masses on Facebook. Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment

Local SVP Conference contact details: 028 90351561



FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

*I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one.
Jesus, here are the rich and poor, world-wide.*

*You take all of us who believe straight to the heart of infinite love,
to the creator of all things.*

To the prime mover and our raison d'être.

The Father sent you because he is love.

Give us an understanding of the infinite love that dwells in us all.

We are the Father's gifts to you.

Then let us be gifts to one another.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Johnny Njanakkal (father of Fr Nideesh Varghese), Canon Robert Fullerton PE (Month's Mind Holy Rosary, Tues 7th June at 7pm), Sr Paschal McMeel (Poor Clare, aunt of Bishop McKeown, month's mind be celebrated in the Sacred Heart Church, Oldpark Road, Belfast at 12 noon on Saturday 4th June. Celebrant will be Bishop Donal McKeown.), Paddy Feeney (father of Fr Ciaran), Joan McGiffin (month's mind Friday 27th May at 7pm), Norma Loder
Anniversaries: Mairead Hughes, Robert Dunn Jnr, Robert Dunn Snr, Patricia McDonald0Nwoga, Hugh & Rebecca Crilly (Sat 11th June at 6:30pm).

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your support. Education of Diocesan Clerical Students £439, Weekly Collection £271.20, Trócaire £751.36.
DONATE: £50

We would appreciate that if you send in a cheque to pay for a number of different donations, that you itemise what amount should go to each collection. Also include all empty envelopes in the one envelope

Relaxation of Covid-19 Related Regulations & Restrictions. The Diocese continues to strongly recommend a number of protective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

1. **Face Coverings:** the Diocese strongly recommends that face coverings continue to be worn at all times in the church.

2. **Hand Sanitizers:** will continue to be provided at the entrances. Hand sanitizing when entering the church is strongly recommended.

3. **Social Distancing:** While we no longer have to observe social distancing in the church, we need to be distance aware, especially for the vulnerable present.

4. **Communion in the hand** should remain the norm.

5. **At the Spring 2022 general meeting of the Irish Episcopal Conference, it has been decided that "from Easter Sunday, the obligation on the Faithful to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is restored." Though for anyone who is sick or vulnerable, the obligation does not apply**

QUB Chaplaincy Golden Jubilee Ball. The Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University will celebrate its Golden Jubilee with a Gala Ball in Belfast City Hall, to take place on Friday 10 June at 7pm. A drinks reception will be followed by a four-course dinner with wine, and dancing to live band MOJO. The evening promises to be the highlight of this year's social calendar, giving Queen's Chaplaincy alumni, across generations, a wonderful opportunity to catch up and share memories with old friends. Tickets are priced at £80 (plus online booking fee) and can be secured by following this link:

<https://fixr.co/event/catholic-chaplaincy-qub-golden-gala-tickets-384378624>

There is a limited number of tickets available for current students at the subsidised rate of £50 and these can be reserved by contacting Chaplaincy directly at catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk. Dress Code: Black Tie

First Confession / Holy Communion. Congratulations to Lough View Integrated PS who received First Communion on Sat 7th May. Harding Memorial Integrated PS will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sat 11th June at 1pm. The Polish Community will celebrate First Holy Communion on Sat 4th June at 10am, and Confirmation Sun 26th June at 9am. Keep them all in your prayers.

National Eucharistic Adoration Pilgrimage to Knock, on Saturday 18th June (Corpus Christi weekend) leaving Belfast City Centre at 6.15 am. Cost £22, bring a packed lunch. Contact Harriet 07812098991 or Maureen 07745093530 to inquire or book a seat. For more information click on the link below. www.eucharisticadoration.ie

The All Ireland Rosary Rally will take place in Knock on Saturday 4th June from 1.30 pm. The main celebrant will be Archbishop Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland. Homilist: Bishop Michael Duignan. Rosary Talk: Fr. Marius O'Reilly. If interested in travelling by coach, contact Paddy 07979501228 or Siobhán 07857251422 by text anytime or call after 5pm.

ACCORD Facilitators Training Programme. We are now recruiting volunteer facilitators, supporting couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage and future family life. Formal training provided in presenting and facilitating our Marriage Preparation Courses. If interested please contact Brenda on 028 90233002 or email info@accordni.com, www.accordni.com

The Wild Goose - a parish programme from Easter to Pentecost. The Wild Goose is a Celtic name for the Holy Spirit. Would you like to draw closer to the Holy Spirit and to the power and influence of the Holy Spirit in your life? Franciscan Priest, Fr Dave Pivonka, will give a talk each week on different aspects of the Holy Spirit, in 4 incredible video presentations.

Following the video, we will have a discussion in small groups around the theme of the presentation each week. Please choose ONE of the two options below and email or text, to register your interest, to: n.dunn@downandconnor.org / 07879 498131

(1) **Thursday 12th May via ZOOM, 8.00pm - 9.00pm** (concluding Thursday 2nd June)

Friday 13th May IN-PERSON, 10.00am - 11.00am, in the luna Room, St Colmcille's Parish Hall, starting with refreshments (concluding Friday 3rd June)

"The Morning Star Shines On Us" - Four Reflective Wednesday afternoon sessions with Sr Magdalen Lawler SND hosted by Drumalis via Zoom in June (8, 15, 22 & 29 June from 2 pm - 3:30 pm). Sr Magdalen Lawler invites us to join her via Zoom for four afternoons in June as she reflects on the paintings of Sieger Koder. The suggested offering to attend the series is £40 per person. To register, please email katrina@drumalis.co.uk or phone 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm)

Safeguarding Notice. The Safeguarding Office have been in contact with your Parish and Safeguarding Committee in relation to identifying training needs within your Parish. If you are a leader or volunteer involved any activity involving children, please make contact with your Parish Safeguarding Committee to agree any training requirements. See Fr McCann for details.

Dromantine Sunday, SMA Open Day and Family Fun Day Sunday 12th June 2022. Society African Missions, Dromantine, Newry, BT34 1RH, 1pm - 5.30pm

There is a £5.00 admission for each car (it doesn't matter how many are in the car). Tel: 02830821964 for more information. Everyone welcome.

Colmcille Lecture Linda Ervine, who leads the Irish Language Turas project in the Skainos Centre, Newtownards Road, Belfast will speak on the theme of Reconciliation and the Irish Language (referencing our parish patron St. Colmcille), in the church, on Friday, 10th June at 7.30pm. There will be opportunity for questions and discussion. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Parochial Hall. Please come along on 10th June to support this new venture. Everyone is welcome. For further information on the Turas Project visit: <https://www.cbm.org.uk/turas/>

Higher Diploma / Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy, from St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. For those interested in an accredited foundation programme in Pastoral Liturgy, training to be involved with Liturgy at a Diocesan and parish level, better understanding the liturgical life of the Church, which is the highest expression of Theology in the Catholic tradition. Contact cmrmissions@spcm.ie or neilxavier.odonoghue@spcm.ie, or contact +353 (0) 17084772, or see flyers in the porch.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Fatima 2022, 8-15 Sept (7 nights), led by Bishop Treanor. Pilgrimage directors Fr G. McCloskey PP & Fr Sean Gilmore PP. From £689 per person sharing. For bookings Joe Catney 028 9071 4001 / 07776 425631. See poster in porch.

Matt Talbot Prayer Society. Do you or somebody you know suffer from addiction? Addiction to Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography, Food, Internet etc. steals life from so many people. Please come to the shrine of Matt Talbot in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sean Me Dermot street, Dublin, on Sunday 12th June at 2pm, and join our annual national pilgrimage to pray for the miracle of freedom from all these addictions. For more information, visit www.mattalbotprayersociety.com or contact (028) 71262894.

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.



A QUESTION OF PRESENCE

To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often,' said J.H. Newman. I suspect Newman was thinking of the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, who centuries earlier said that the only constant in life is change. We are all familiar with the reality of change in life, particularly in these uncertain times. We mark these changes from the old to the new,

the past to the future, from what was to what is to be, with ritual. So, we baptise infants (mostly) and adults. Twelve years later we 'confirm' that this baptised infant is fit for their adult faith life. We recognise the friendship of a couple has deepened to a point it can only be celebrated in marriage.

Now, I feel that we seem to be donning the rather tattered approach of the past in our parish and diocesan structures. There are deeper questions that we could ask about how faithful we have been and will be to the Lord's

Next Sunday's Readings

Acts 2:1-11

Psalms 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

Romans 8:8-17

John 14:15-16, 23-26



commissioning of us. St Ignatius of Loyola would have us examine ourselves with the questions, 'What have I done for Christ?' 'What am I doing for Christ?' and 'What will I do for Christ?' In social media terms, it's like a 'status update' where we check to see if our communities are fit for purpose to witness to the Risen Christ and all people. We need to show by our lives, attitudes and (if necessary) our words that we are faithful to his command.

Every day we have meetings and parting-ascension moments. Our encounters are casual, and in them there is no real draw on us. We meet, listen and gaze at each other. Sometimes we connect; many times

I suspect we see through each other. We don't really 'get' the other person. Has the person of Christ made a difference in my life? We surely know that when we part with someone, we live in death, that person doesn't just disappear physically. Sadly, we might miss them even more, as we hardly noticed them when around. But they become present in a completely new way. The disciples are told not to gaze with their eyes raised to Heaven but to look around. It's a balancing act. You can't return to the past, and you can't live in the future in some sort of suspended life. Jesus is more present, not less, in his ascension to the Father. ■

- Tom Cox



Reflection

Feel the mystery and power in the appearance of Jesus, now transformed with divine glory.



Lesson

Jesus' ascension means our salvation.



Prayer

Jesus, may we always be glad when we think of the many ways you are with us: in the Eucharist, in your Word, in one another and in your ministers.



This Week (30 May - 5 June)

- 30 M** St Joan of Arc, virgin
- 31 T** THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- 1 W** St Justin, martyr
- 2 T** Ss Marcellinus and Peter, martyrs
- 3 F** St Kevin, abbot
- 4 S** Ss Charles Lwanga and his companions, martyrs
- 5 S** PENTECOST SUNDAY

