

Parish Newsletter



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 5 November 2017
Year A | Issue 50

THE AUTHORITY OF SERVICE

If ever there was a Sunday when priests should not preach – this is it. In the readings today from Malachi and Matthew, priests and preachers are criticised and even cursed by the Lord. In the first reading the priests are condemned for not taking their calling seriously in the “heart” and for thereby leading others astray.

In the Gospel, the preachers are castigated for not practising what they preach and for feeling entitled to privilege on account of their ministry.

Somebody wisely commented on priests practising what they preached – that if they preached what they practised, sermons would be awfully short. A bit like the lady greeting the preacher after another scorcher of a sermon with the remark, “You know, your sermons frighten me, but your conduct consoles me.” No priest has to go too deep to realise that we don’t meet the gold standard. Priests and preachers stand in a precarious place.

Today's Readings



Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10
Psalm 130:1-3
1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13
Matthew 23:1-12

Next Sunday's Readings



Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm 62:2-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

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But priests and preachers are needed. For who will speak of God when all things fall apart? Who else will wonder aloud about Wealth without Work, Pleasure without Conscience, Science without Humanity, Knowledge without Character, Politics without Principle, Commerce without Morality, Worship without Sacrifice? Who else would not be scandalised by the frailties that stir the human spirit, aware that he too is a healed paralytic?

For at the same time, St Paul in the second reading reminds that a priest, a preacher, should be among his people, "like a mother feeding and looking after her own children" sharing, with affection, not only the Gospel but their very self as well... Yes, trust in many forms of institutional life is dropping

(Doctors and Teachers remain in top place of public trust) with people untrusting even of media sources. Fake news is alive and well. So it is not shocking to say that those in positions of authority fail. We read it in the news, and we know from experience that bosses, judges, religious leaders, governments, parents can all fail in the just exercise of authority.

It is hard to obey someone whose faults are evident, whose actions are wrong or with whom we simply disagree. Our human nature bristles at it. Yet, even when presented with a poor example, Jesus asks us to observe everything and asks us not to reject things out of hand. Learn from it – now that IS shocking. For who we are is defined by how we are with God and one another – not by human titles or recognition. Keep focused on Jesus – the humble servant now exalted.

– Tom Cox

Reflection

In which ways do you find that you sometimes act like the scribes and the Pharisees?

Lesson

Keep focused on Jesus, the humble servant now exalted.

Prayer

Lord, when we seek superiority, remind us of the equality of all people. When we seek exaltation, humble us. Amen.

This Week (6–12 November)

- 6 Mon** All the Saints of Ireland
- 7 Tue** St Willibrord, bishop and missionary
- 8 Wed** All Saints of Wales
- 9 Thur** DED. OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME
- 10 Fri** St Leo the Great, pope and doctor
- 11 Sat** St Martin of Tours, bishop
- 12 Sun** THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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, stanthony@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)



31st SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 21:28-32

1. It is possible to be a dutiful and observant Christian, and yet feel there is something missing. It makes such a difference when your heart is in what you are doing – so much better than just going through the motions. Where do you experience that most in your life?
2. The desire of Jesus for us is that we grow in that kind of committed, enthusiastic involvement in life. What encourages you to grow in this way?
3. The elders probably thought well of themselves in contrast to the tax collectors and sinners. Perhaps you know some unconventional people, ones who appear to ignore the 'right' way of doing things, and yet they have taught you something about true goodness.

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrncosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Mary Cunningham, Ethna Heaney (Kay Curran's sister)

Anniversaries: atricia McDonnell Nwoga, Mary Jane McGreevy, Manuel Simão Antonio DaSilva, Sally Watson (Sat 27th Nov at 6:30pm)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 5th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Eileen Dunn

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 12th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Shauna Mullen
Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Margaret Woods

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £735.22, Propagation of the Faith £26, Stipend 6, Shrines £138.35. 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.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have missed sending in your collection envelope donations, One Envelope Per Collection (eg Weekly or Monthly) will suffice. For example there is no need to put weekly envelopes inside each other with your donation. Discard the missed envelope(s) and place your total donation into ONE envelope. Thank you.

All Souls Indulgences. An indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The indulgence is plenary each day from the first to the eighth of November; on other days of the year it is partial.

A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who on the day dedicated to the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed [November 2 (as well as on the Sunday preceding or following, and on All Saints' Day)] piously visit a church. In visiting the church it is required that one Our Father and the Creed be recited. To acquire a plenary indulgence it is necessary also to fulfil the following three conditions: sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father. The three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the visit; it is, however, fitting that communion be received and the prayer for the intention of the Holy Father be said on the same day as the visit. The condition of praying for the intention of the Holy Father is fully satisfied by reciting one Our Father and one Hail Mary. A plenary indulgence can be acquired only once in the course of the day.

November Lists of Deceased are available in the porch. Please take one and record the names of your loved ones, (and any donation you may wish to give—optional), and place them in the collection basket.

Mass for Deceased will be on Friday 24th November at 7pm during the Novena Mass to our Lady of Perpetual Help. You are invited to bring a flower to remember your loved ones who have died. The Mass will be in English and Polish.

Course for Ministers of the Word. All the priests and ministers of the Word in our Pastoral Community are welcome and indeed highly encouraged to participate, including those who have been recently selected for this ministry, and are now in need of training. This programme (10 sessions), will take place on Monday evenings, 7.9.30pm, (including 30 minutes break). The dates for the course is as follows: for 2017:- 25th September, 9th & 23rd, October, 6th & 20th November. The dates for 2018 are: - 12th & 26th February, 12th March, 9th & 23rd April. (Two discrete sessions, one just before Advent, and one just before Easter.) An Information Handout for the last meeting (Mon 23rd Oct) available in the sacristy.

St. Agnes' Choral Society presents: The Gift of Music, Saturday 11th November 2017 at 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Carryduff. Ticket - £12.50 (includes light refreshments). Tickets available from Charlie on 07850203835, Eamon on 07802354799 or Parish Office on 028 90812238 option 2. Proceeds in aid of St. Bernadette's Church Restoration Fund and the The Lighthouse Charity. Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus CK29.

Down & Connor Pioneer Association: November- Month of the Holy Souls. Many people choose to abstain from alcohol for the month of November and offer this sacrifice up for their deceased loved ones. YOU CAN DO LIKEWISE. Take the Short Term Pledge for November. Pledge Prayer:

"I promise in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary to abstain from all alcoholic drink during November."

Downe Travel Pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo, Loreto & Montecassino, 18th-25th May 2018 ex Belfast. (50th anniversary of Padre Pio's death plus stigmata 100th anniversary). Spiritual Director Very Rev Canon Sean Rogan PE, Killecoo. 7 Nights - 4* Hotel. Price £1090 pp (single room supp. £245). Deposit £250 - includes meals, fully escorted guided tours and all taxes. Contact Marie or Paul Downe Travel. Tel : 028 4461 3288. Email : marie@downetravel.co.uk

Cruse Information Meeting. Cruse is a well-established and highly respected support service for people who are bereaved, to help them understand their grief and to learn how to cope with their loss. We are delighted a Cruse representative is coming to St. Colmcille's to give a presentation on "Understanding Grief". We welcome everyone including our neighbouring churches to come along so we can understand a little more and learn about the various stages of grief that many people experience. Recognising these can often be a comfort in itself. Tuesday 7th November 2017, at 7.15 pm, St Colmcille's Parochial Hall. There is no charge for this event and no prior booking required.

Advent at Clonard Monastery. You are invited to join us in Clonard Monastery to celebrate the beautiful season of Advent. Let's gather together on four consecutive Tuesdays (28 Nov, 5 Dec, 12 Dec and 19 Dec) in the conference room of Clonard Monastery from 7.30-8.30pm. Kindly, sign up at Clonard reception, or email reception@clonard.com, or phone 028 9044 5950.

Vocations Eucharistic Prayer Vigil for Vocations to the Priesthood, Permanent Diaconate and Religious Life will take place in The Church of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, Carryduff on Thursday 16th November 2017 from 7pm - 10pm. The Prayer Vigil will be led by various youth groups from the Diocese and it will conclude with the celebration of Mass at 9pm. A warm welcome is extended to the young people of our Diocese to come along for this evening of prayer as they continue to discern their vocation in life.

Bishop Noel Treanor at a recent Ordination Ceremony said, "There is an urgent need to work for, to pray for and to encourage vocations to the priesthood and religious life." Let us rise to this challenge and give a few hours of our time to come to this Prayer Vigil and to implore the 'Lord of the Harvest' to bless us with vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and the Permanent Diaconate. See poster in porch.

The Gospel of Mark for Today. Drumalis, Larne - commencing Saturday, 25 November. "The Gospel of Mark for Today", a short course led by Sr Pamela Thimmes OSC will take place at Drumalis over four Saturdays (25 Nov 2017, 27 Jan 2018, 24 Feb 2018 & 21 April 2018 from 10 am - 4 pm). The cost of the course is £160 and includes refreshments and lunch on each day as well as facilitation fees. For further information or to book a place, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm). Details are also available on the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>.

100th Birthday of Mr Lundy. Very many happy returns to Mr Patrick Lundy who has turned 100 at the weekend. Mass will be celebrated on this Sunday for his intentions.

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.