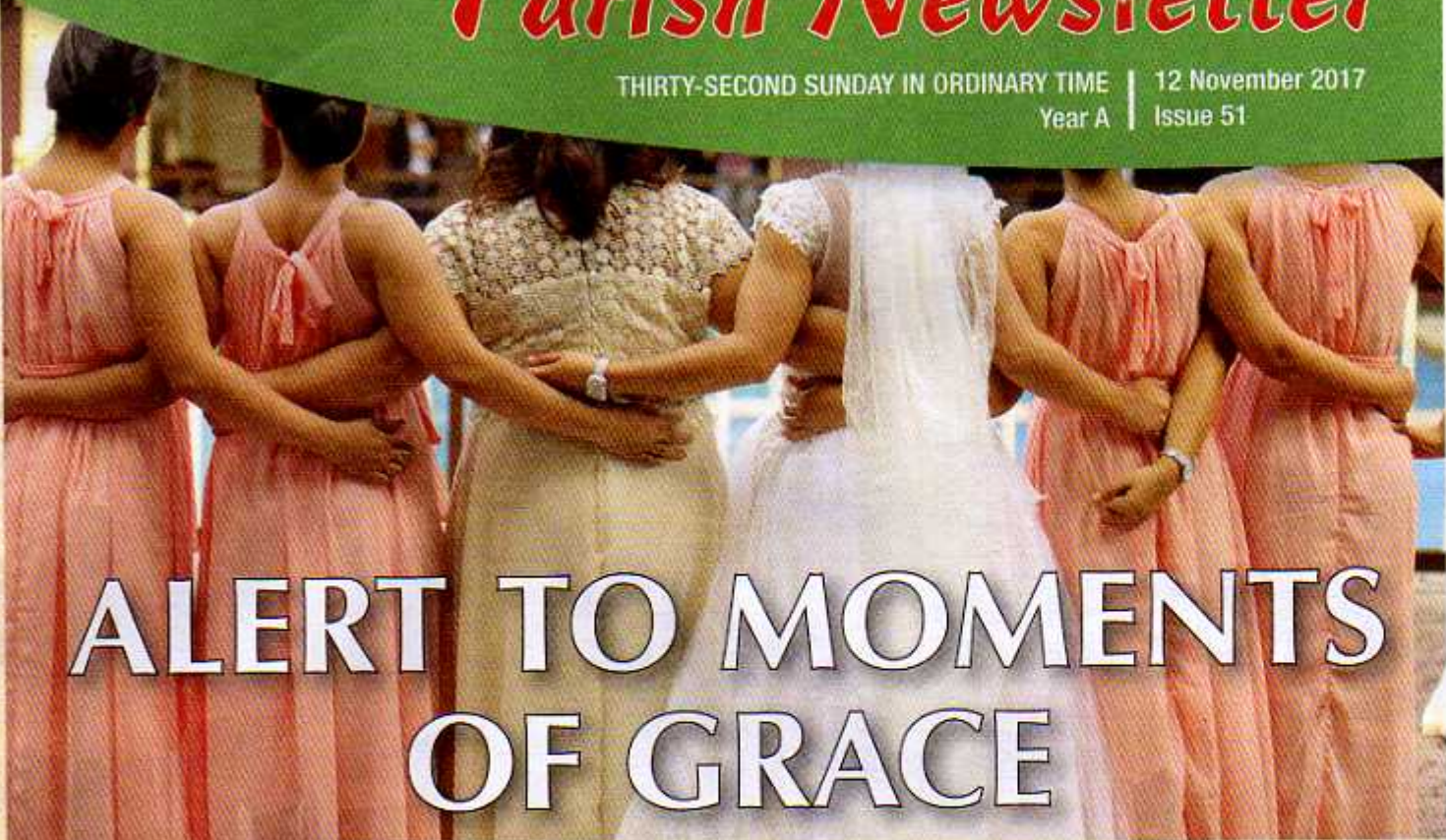


# Parish Newsletter



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Year A

12 November 2017  
Issue 51



## ALERT TO MOMENTS OF GRACE

In today's parable, Jesus does not blame the unprepared bridesmaids for any moral fault. He sees them as being foolish. They had a chance of a party and missed it. Did you ever hear of a bridesmaid who was so casual as to make no preparations for the day? That's not the way a bridesmaid acts who values the invitation received. A true bridesmaid takes the role seriously and throws herself into the task of doing what she can to make the day memorable for the couple, and for herself.

Jesus wants his followers to be like enthusiastic bridesmaids. He is fired with the desire to make life better for people. His disciples are inspired by the vision that he presents to them of the Reign of God in which people have trust in the love of God for them, and reach out to one another in mutual concern and love. The vision is far removed from the reality he sees around them, but he invites his listeners, and us, to join him in making the vision a reality where we are. We are not being invited to be

### Today's Readings



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

### Next Sunday's Readings



Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
Psalm 127:1-5  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30

(continued on back page)



simply spectators at the wedding. We are being invited to be among those who create the party atmosphere. His followers are those who are fired with his spirit and take on board the project of Jesus, people who bring to others the hope of making the world a better

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place. How can we be witnesses to the Good News if we are burnt-out shells without the spirit of Jesus animating us? In his letter *The Joy of the Gospel* Pope Francis said, "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything" (EG 27).

### Reflection

Do you remember being surprised by an unanticipated blessing?

### Lesson

The coming of the Lord can be any moment of grace. If we are alert to the Lord coming in the events of our day, we will be alert when he calls us to himself.

### Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of this day. Help me to live it to the full.

The truth is that each day brings us opportunities to make a difference for good. Opportunities arise unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to take them. Perhaps you can recall a time when you were alert for such a moment. It might have been an occasion when you sensed that a child, or a friend, wanted to talk with you, and you picked up the hidden message and responded. A significant conversation followed that you could easily have missed. It was a graced moment.

Being alert to needs around us, and aware of where we can make a difference, are aspects of the wisdom praised in the first reading, since the reading says that wisdom comes to those who are vigilant. Life is full of opportunities to enrich our own lives and to make a contribution to others. "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." ■

– John Byrne

### This Week (13–19 November)

- 13 **Mon** St Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin
- 14 **Tue** St Laurence O'Toole, bishop
- 15 **Wed** St Albert the Great, bishop and doctor
- 16 **Thur** St Margaret of Scotland
- 17 **Fri** St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
- 18 **Sat** Dedication of Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul
- 19 **Sun** THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME







# St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)  
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Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthonys@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)



## 32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 25:1-13

1. While the parable has clear end-of-time applications it can also be applied to any moment of grace. It reminds us that moments of grace come unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to receive them. Recall times when you were alert for such a moment. What were the consequences for you?
2. Grace can also be disturbing. We can be coasting along in life and suddenly an opportunity or a graced moment arrives and we are shaken out of our routine in order to respond. Perhaps you can recall both moments when you were unprepared, and moments when you were able to respond. What lessons have you learned from such experiences?
3. We may be tempted to judge the wise virgins as being selfish for not sharing with the others, but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that there are some things that other people cannot provide for us. We have to acquire them ourselves. What qualities in life do you see as the essential oil that you must provide for yourself?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

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

Anniversaries: Patricia McDonnell Nwoga, Mary Jane McGreevy, Manuel Simão Antonio Da Silva, Anna McPhillips (Sat 18th at 6:30pm), Sally Watson (Sat 27th Nov at 6:30pm), Patrick Joseph Greenan (Sat 2nd Dec at 6:30pm)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 12th November

READERS:

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

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty  
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 19th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Ann Flanagan  
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £598.38, Propagation of the Faith £29, Weekly Collection £735.22, £33, Shrines £121.63. 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.

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 6th Nov) will be available in the sacristy next weekend.

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.

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, Kilcoo. 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

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. 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>.

The Iona Institute NI invites you to an evening conference: **The Future of Marriage & Family in N. Ireland**. Wednesday 29th November 6.30 - 8.30 pm, Wellington Park Hotel, 21 Malone Road Belfast, BT9. Conference Speakers: Thomas Pascoe 'Lessons from the revolution in England: same-sex marriage and the end of truth'. Thomas Pascoe is Campaign Director for the London based Coalition for Marriage and works to promote marriage and freedom of conscience throughout the UK. David Quinn - 'Marriage & Family in N.Ireland' David is Founder & Director of The Iona Institute, author & Columnist (Irish Sunday Times). To register email - [tharkin@ionainstitute.ie](mailto:tharkin@ionainstitute.ie). Suggested Donation: £6.00.

SVP Christmas Cards. Saint Vincent de Paul (St. Bernadette's conference) will be selling packs of ten Christmas cards after Sunday masses, starting 19th November. If you buy them and send them, it will help to spread the name of the charity as well as helping towards supporting local people in difficulty in this busy season.

Annual Mass for Deceased Pioneers. The Annual Mass for deceased Pioneers will be celebrated in Good Shepherd Church, Ormeau Rd. on Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 7.30 pm. Everyone welcome. NB. Requests for Pioneer Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, please contact Ian 9061 6601, Roisin 9064 6957, Josephine 9061 7116.

A Special Mass of Remembrance is being organised by St Paul's Disability Care Group and will be held on Friday 24 November 2017 in St Paul's Church, Falls Road, Belfast at 7.30 pm followed by refreshments immediately afterwards in the Fr O'Kane Centre. This Mass will remember all those with a disability or special needs who have died. If you would like a friend or family member remembered in this Mass, please contact Bernadette on 028 90285374, Frances on 0771 8914692, Mary on 028 94423956 or email [stpaulsdisabilitycaregroup@hotmail.com](mailto:stpaulsdisabilitycaregroup@hotmail.com).

Beginner Online Irish Lessons. Want to learn Irish but don't have the time to go to classes? Why not learn online from the comfort of your own home or out and about? For more info contact Mrs Larkin on 07488268208 or email [fountoflearning@gmail.com](mailto:fountoflearning@gmail.com)

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.