

Parish Newsletter

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
Year A

26 November 2017
Issue 53



EVERYONE A SHEPHERD

This judgement scene contains surprises for us. In it nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for his or her failure to do good. Our Christian duty can sometimes be described as the avoidance of sin. That is a very negative attitude. Jesus is telling us that being his disciple is a positive choice to do good. After all, we are made in the image and likeness of God. God is love. God is the good shepherd, as today's psalm reminds us. It is one of the most popular of all the

psalms, one that has given strength and comfort to people throughout the ages. Ezekiel, in today's first reading, describes how a good shepherd acts. The good shepherd keeps all in view, rescues the scattered, shows them where to rest, brings back the stray, bandages the wounded, makes the weak strong, watches over them all. Our Gospel tells us that we will be judged on how we also have been good shepherds.

Today's Readings



Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Psalm 22:1-3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8
Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

(continued on back page)

The aim of Christian living is not simply me-centred (about my personal sanctification), but also other-centred (responding to the needs of others). Our own sanctification takes place through our response to the needy. We also benefit when we reach out to others. What happens to us when we get all caught up in ourselves? Is life not better, and often more enjoyable, when we can look beyond ourselves to others? A friend of mine had a phrase: "People wrapped up in themselves make very small parcels." How true that is.

The story presents an image of a society in which relationships at all levels are governed by the law of love. That was the way that Jesus lived and he told his disciples, and us, to follow him.

This challenges us to move beyond our comfort zone and reach out to those in need. We each do this in the context of our own circumstances and area of influence. We can ask ourselves, What are the needs we see in our own extended family or neighbourhood? How can I make a difference here?

As a Eucharistic community we fail to "recognise the body of Christ" (1 Cor 11:30), when we do not relate to one another in a loving and sensitive way. Pope Benedict XVI said, "A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is essentially fragmented" (*Deus Caritas Est* No.14). "We don't need to wait for the judgement. Right now are we coming near or turning away from those who suffer? Right now are we coming near or turning away from Christ?" (J.A. Pagola).

— John Byrne

Reflection

When have you found that reaching out to another was good for you as well?

Lesson

Jesus said, "Insofar as you did this to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me."

Prayer

Gracious God, help me to be compassionate, as you are compassionate.

This Week (27 Nov–3 December)

- 27 **Mon** St Fergal
- 28 **Tue** St Catherine Laboure
- 29 **Wed** St Brendan of Birr, abbot
- 30 **Thur** ST ANDREW, AP, PATRON OF SCOTLAND
- 1 **Fri** St Eligius, bishop
- 2 **Sat** St Chromatius, bishop
- 3 **Sun** FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT





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)



FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 22:15-21

1. The story sees a mixture of religion and politics, a potentially explosive combination. Jesus does not ask us to avoid politics, but that our involvement in the affairs of the world be informed by the perspective of the reign of God. How does the gospel give you a vision of how your involvement in society should be?
2. Pharisees and Herodians were not natural allies but a shared dislike of Jesus brought them together in an attempt to discredit him. Perhaps you experience the same opposition in society today when you profess to be a Catholic. Jesus did not get into an argument with them but simply professed his belief in the priority of God in his life. What have you found helpful in bearing witness to the fact that you are still a Catholic?
3. Jesus recognises that we can be faced with conflicting claims for attention. He does not tell us how to solve that dilemma, but challenges us to make sure that our allegiance to God takes priority. When have you been faced with a conflict of loyalties? What helped you to get your priorities right?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Ethna Heaney (Kay Curran's sister), Katie Shinn (niece of Kay Dunn), Monica Cusack

Anniversaries: Manuel Simão Antonio Da Silva, James Murray, Terence & Sarah McCartan, Sally Watson (Sat 25th Nov at 6:30pm), Nancy Grogan (Sun 26th Nov at 11:30am), Peter Hughes (Fri 1st Dec at 7pm), Patrick Joseph Greenan (Sat 2nd Dec at 6:30pm), Bro. Peter Gallagher (Sun 3rd Dec at 11:30am), Marie Matthews (Sun 10th Dec at 11:30am), Rose Meenagh (Sun 17th Dec at 11:30am), John Higney (Sun 31st Dec at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 26th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Tracey Mallon

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 3rd December

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Shauna Mullen
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Bishop's Commissions £491.27, Weekly Collection £437.68, Monthly Stipend £66, Shrines £97.99. 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.

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 20th Nov) now available in the sacristy.

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.

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. 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.

Saint Vincent de Paul - St Bernadette's conference invite senior citizens to a social Christmas dinner at the Ivanhoe on Wednesday 6th December at 1pm. There will be entertainment and no charge. Please contact Stephen Murphy on 07742 405857 by 26th November if you are interested in attending.

Rosary on the Coast for Life and Faith. On Sunday 26 November 2017, the Feast of Christ the King, hosted by St Comgall's Marian Prayer Group, Bangor Parish. Where?: Park in Queen's Parade car park. Head to Pickie Fun Park, keep going and the Most Holy Rosary will be said on the small beach 100 yards beyond Pickie Fun Park. Why?: To pray the Rosary for the Preservation of Faith and Family Life. 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Join us and unite with the Saints of Bangor, St Comgall, St Columbanus, St Gall, St Malachy in praying for God's protection of life and family in our land of Ireland.

Saintfield & Carrickmannon Parish: Liam Lawton Concert - O Holy Night, Monday 18th December 2017 in Aid of Marie Cure and the N. I Hospice. Tickets contact: 07788435797 or 07919332490.

St Colmille's Ballyhackamore are presenting an Advent DVD programme for the over sixties, 'Beloved Disciple', in the Iona Room, Parochial Hall on four Friday mornings, beginning this Friday 24th November at 10.00am, starting with refreshments. All are welcome.

Stations of Confessions available in St Anthony's after 6:30pm mass from next week (Sat 2nd December) from 7:30pm—8pm. Why not prepare early before the Penitential Services, in preparation for Christmas.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Spiritual Exercises (Silent Retreat) for Women. 28 Dec—1 Jan, at the Alexian Brothers Monastery, Knock, Co. Mayo. For details +353-85-8235525. Poster in Porch.

Christmas at Tobar Mhuire. Christmas Craft Fair - on 25th and 26th November from 1pm - 5pm. Fun for all with Craft Stalls, face painting, tombola, plenty of food and refreshments, and of course a visit with Santa. **Christmas Candlelight Dinner** - Enjoy great food and music at our 6 course Christmas Dinner on 9th December with music by local singer Matthew Campbell. **Advent Day of Reflection** - A time for reflection and solitude amongst the busy Christmas period with guest speaker Sean Goan on Saturday 2nd December from 10am – 4pm. **Gift Shop** - Christmas Shopping in our Gift Shop for your religious Christmas items, from Christmas cards to Nativity sets, Advent candles and gifts. For further information on pricing or bookings call 02844 830242 or email secretary@tobarmhuirecrossgar.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.