

Parish Newsletter

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 18 November 2018
Cycle B | Issue 51



ARE YOU READY?

Authors seem to have different approaches when it comes to writing. Some mystery writers will write the ending first and work their way backwards. It makes sense in a way – you cannot develop the chain of events in a story unless you can determine what they are leading

to. Sometimes glossy magazines will have spoiler-alerts for the latest twists and turns in a soap opera. Still, the principle holds – you must know the outcome for the writer to marshal the events that will occur along the way. Our Christian understanding of life is a bit like this.

Today's Readings



Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 15:5-8-11
Hebrews 10:11-14,18
Mark 13:24-32

Next Sunday's Readings



Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 92:1-2,5
Apocalypse 1:5-8
John 18:33-37

Our lives are not some random event. We know where we're going with our lives. The Christian knows this from Jesus who spoke realistically about the end – his own death and the death of others. He is the Lord of all, who gives life and receives it back. In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus depicts a series of future events so fearful as to cause one to wonder if his purpose is not to afflict us with phobias concerning the end of our lives and the end of the world.

We frequently hear the phrase 'the signs of the times' – the call is to trust, not anxiety. Some believers have been led astray by becoming obsessed with signs of various sorts and, worse, setting dates for the end of the world. It's wiser to be ready every day, expect the unexpected. It is good to seek and find something in life that cannot

pass away – be it in love, in our friendships and in our trust in the future.

They tell the story of a bygone king, who gave his jester (a professional joker or fool at a medieval court) a very decorative pole as a symbol of his being the greatest fool in the entire kingdom. Everyone laughed – and the years went by until, one day, the King was gravely ill in bed and told the visiting jester that he would soon go to the land of departed souls. The jester asked him did he know what language they spoke there? (No), what provisions did he make for the trip? (None), what were the people like? (He didn't know), what plans had the king made to ensure he would be happy there? (I don't know). How long had the king known he would be making this journey? (All his life). Then the jester handed his pole of office to the king, as he was truly the greatest fool in the entire kingdom. ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

Reflect how faith is presented here as 'watchfulness'.

Lesson

We are to take part in an aspect of on-going creation: the bringing of God's justice, love and mercy to all.

Prayer

Lord, bless all who are desperate today, for whom the night was long and sleepless and for whom the morning brought no comfort. Let them feel your presence. Amen.

This Week (19-25 November)

- 19 **Mon** St Mechtilde, religious
- 20 **Tue** St Edmund, martyr
- 21 **Wed** The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 22 **Thur** St Cecilia, virgin and martyr
- 23 **Fri** St Columban, abbot and missionary
- 24 **Sat** St Andrew Dung-Lac and comp., martyrs
- 25 **Sun** OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



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

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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)



33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time—Year B SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS Mark 13:24-32

1. *Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. When have you seen something new and hopeful emerge after the collapse of something that you had expected to endure much longer, perhaps even for ever?*
2. *The parable of the fig tree. Even in winter, it begins to put forth leaves which give a hint of the fruit to come. Where have you found signs of hope in a wintry situation – in your own life, in the life of some group, in the life of the Church?*
3. *Jesus proposes no clear time-scale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence (v.32) is a call to alertness, to live the present to the full. What difference does it make to you when you are able to live the present moment to the full?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Patrick Lundy, Eileen Adams, Tommy McKendry (great-uncle of Fr McCann), Jimmy McGilone (cousin of Fr McCann).
Anniversaries: Mary Jane McGreevy & Carol McGreevy, Paul & Ita Hetherington, William Kane, James Murray (Mon 19th Nov at 9:30am), Canon Hugh Starkey*

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 18th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 25th November

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Rotas will be available from next weekend

Please Note: Due to falling numbers of Ministers of the Word for the Vigil Mass, and the avoidance of Readers not to be on too frequently, there has been the necessity of re-structuring the Rota, so that one reader will read both readings and the psalm and gospel acclamation. This is only temporary until more ministers can be recruited and trained.

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: World Meeting of Families £549.70, Weekly Collection £260.50, Monthly Stipend £11, Propagation of the Faith £20, Peter's Pence £205, £5, Shrines £111.05.

5th National Collection for the World Meeting of Families:
Many thanks for your generosity which raised £549.70

Fifth National Collection for the World Meeting of Families 2018
Thank you for your generous support for the fifth national collection for the World Meeting of Families 2018

Suspension of the Sign of Peace and other Hygiene matters. the following is advised until the end of the flu season:

- A) The 'sign of peace' during the celebration of Mass has been suspended.
- B) the encouragement to TAKE HOME THE COPY OF THE MISSALETTE AND/OR BULLETIN that they use during Mass.

- C) the use of the hand gel sanitisers at the entrances of the church on entry and exit of the celebrations,
- D) to remind parishioners of good hand hygiene

November Lists of Deceased and envelopes are available in the Porch. Please fill in, place in envelopes and leave in the collection baskets. These names will be remembered in Masses during November.

Annual Mass for Deceased on Friday 23rd Nov at the 7pm Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Parishioners are asked to bring a flower to remember their loved ones and place it in the garden of remembrance at the baptismal font.

*The 1st Anniversary Mass for Canon Hugh Starkey will be held in St Joseph's Church, Ballykinler on Wednesday, 5th December 2018 at 7.30pm.

Alcohol Awareness Week 19th-25th November. Alcohol misuse has been identified as a significant public health and social issue in Northern Ireland over many years. The latest statistics suggest 12,000 people are admitted to hospital each year with alcohol related problems in N.I. with 170,000 people drinking hazardously and 47,000 drinking harmfully. Al-Anon Family Groups is there for families and friends of Problem Drinkers. Our Information Office in Belfast is opened Monday – Friday 10am – 1.00pm. Contact number 02890682368 and our helpline is operated from 6pm – 11pm 365 days per year. Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire is launching a new campaign "The Untold Story" during Alcohol Awareness Week 19th – 25th November 2018 to encourage more people living with problem drinkers to find their local Al-Anon meetings which run weekly throughout Northern Ireland. Contact us on 02890682368 for a list of your nearest meeting or National Helpline 02074030888 email for more information al-anon@btconnect.com or visit our website www.al-anonuk.org.uk

St Vincent de Paul (St Bernadette's Conference) Christmas Cards. Saint Vincent de Paul are selling Christmas cards after both masses on the weekends of 18th and 25th of November. The packs of 10 cards will cost £3.50 per pack. The money will be needed for local households during the winter, a time of extra need.

Anam Cara the national organisation that provides support services to bereaved parents, are hosting their monthly Bereavement Evening in Crown Plaza Shaw's Bridge (on outer ring near M1) on Wednesday 14th November 2018 from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Anam Cara Parent evenings are facilitated by a bereavement professional and our volunteer parents. The core essence of our parent evenings is to give parents a safe and comfortable place where they can meet other bereaved parents who understand the intense grief and sense of loss experienced after the death of a child. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents.

Pilgrimage to Rome and San Giovanni Easter 2019 (last remaining seats) with Papal Ceremonies in Saint Peter's Square in Rome for the 7 nights Ex Dublin €995 pps Payments can be made in instalments contact James Treacy on 061921470 or 0860572216.

Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lisbon ex Dublin (last remaining seats) for Feast Day of Saint Anthony 9th/14th June 2019. Full Board €675 pps Single supplement €32 Contact James Treacy: 061921470.

Medjugorje Irish Centre Pilgrimages April - Oct 2019: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €279 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com.

Sign Language Mass: Each day a BSL NI Sign Language Mass is provided via the webcam from St Vincent de Paul Parish, Ligoniel, Belfast. <https://www.saintvincentdepaulligoniel.com/webcam> You can also watch a recording of the Mass externally at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQJf_QN2zqPzwKx4p6PJ18A. This will have subtitles. See poster in porch.

New Mission Council in Down & Connor Diocese. If you are interested in being part of a new Mission Council in the diocese to promote and foster mission awareness at home and overseas, please come along and join us for a meeting on Wednesday 28th Nov at 7.00pm in the Good Shepherd Centre, 511 Ormeau Road, Belfast. All are welcome. For further information please contact Fr Conor McGrath on 028 9081 2238 or email c.mcgrath@downandconnor.org

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.