



# WISDOM AND COMPASSION

**T**oday's parable has a clear end-of-time meaning but it has an everyday significance as well. 'Stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour.' That says something about the unpredictability of life. We may have a good idea when we get up the morning about what lies ahead of us that day, yet how often have things turned out to be different? Were we able to take advantage of the new opportunities that arose during the day?

When we look at the parable, the foolish virgins should not have been

## Next Sunday's Readings



Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalms 127:1-5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

surprised at what happened. They were bridesmaids after all. They knew that they were going to be called upon at some stage. They just had not made adequate preparations. They were on automatic pilot, surprisingly unprepared for what they knew was



## ALWAYS BE READY

Jesus said we must always be ready for his second coming, ready to meet him. Being 'ready' doesn't mean spending all the time doing religious things. For married couples, being 'ready' means being ready to listen to each other, sharing thoughts and feelings. Keep your 'love tank' full by thinking of ways he or she can be surprised by love.

– *Marriage Matters*

[www.twainoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

coming down the line. We also know that in life we are going to be called upon to respond to the needs of others. We never know where or when this is going to happen. So there is that element of unpredictability about what will face us in the course of any day.

How can we make sure that we have 'oil in our lamps' that will enable us to respond to the unexpected? One key element is to cultivate an attitude of compassion towards the people we meet. Compassion was one of the distinguishing characteristics of Jesus in his earthly life. We do not have the power to do the kind of extraordinary cures that Jesus did, but there are many little 'miracles' that are within our capabilities. Many a person is cured by the willingness of someone to listen to their story. An unsolicited helping hand may have a healing power beyond

our imagination. Eyes and ears that are open to others and their struggles can reach across barriers of isolation and loneliness. The good that can be done by a kind person is greatly undervalued. We saw many examples of this during the Coronavirus pandemic. It was a crisis that brought out the best in people as they reached out to neighbours, family and strangers, even at considerable inconvenience to themselves. When the call came for help, they had the oil of compassion in their hearts and were able to respond to the call.

'Stay awake because you do not know the day nor the hour.' Perhaps before this day is out you will have an opportunity to answer a call. Recognise it as a moment of grace. ■

– John Byrne, OSA



## Reflection

Recall a time when you were able to respond to an unexpected call for help.



## Lesson

The call to stay awake is not only a call to be ready for death, but a call to be awake to opportunities for good in daily life.



## Prayer

Lord, you are compassion and love. Help us to show loving compassion to the people in our lives.



## This Week (9–15 November)

- 9 M** DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
- 10 T** St Leo the Great, pope and doctor
- 11 W** St Martin of Tours, bishop
- 12 T** St Josaphat, bishop and martyr
- 13 F** St Frances Xavier Cabrini, religious
- 14 S** St Laurence O'Toole, bishop
- 15 S** 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

**PARISH PRIEST:** Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)  
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**PUBLIC MASS TIMES IN THE COVID-19 ERA**

*(will be under assessment and review)*

**Saturday Evening** at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

**Sunday Morning** (in Polish): 9am, & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

**Weekdays:** Tues & Thurs at 9.30am, Fri at 7.00pm. **All Public English Masses on Facebook.**

Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am

**Private Mass (on Facebook Mon 9:30am) Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment**



## 32nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### Prisoners' Sunday

*At midnight there was a cry: 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. Mt 25:1-13*

*Lord, we trust you to be present for us.*

*Until then we try to catch just a glimpse of you:*

*in midnight stars, and geese in flight; planets on path,  
a child's face; each sorrow and all joy.*

*We look for you in the homeless, hungry, in immigrants and victims of  
bias, in caretakers of the environment and the sick.*

*Please bless our searching for you, flasks full and lamps trimmed.  
Let us find you in all things.*

*Anne Osdelek*

### WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

**Recently Deceased:** Maureen McCann (aunt of Fr Henry), Tony Richardson, Shiela Bradshaw

**Anniversaries:** Patsy Mackin (2nd Anniv), Catherine Patricia Lord, Peggy Wilson, Gerard Wilson, Fr Des Wilson, Liam Wilson, Raymond Matthews, Paul & Ita Hetherington, Alice McDonnell (Sat 7th Nov at 6:30pm), Nancy Groogan (Sun 8th Nov at 11:30am), Joe McDonnell (Sat 14th Nov at 6:30pm), Minnie Tanney (Sun 15th Nov at 11:30am), James Murray (Thurs 19th Nov at 9:30am), Joseph McDonnell, (Sun 22nd Nov at 11:30am), Dan McDonnell (Sun 29th Nov at 11:30am), Bro Peter Gallagher (Sun 6th Dec at 11:30am), Marie Matthews (Sun 13th Dec at 11:30am), Terence & Sarah McCartan (Sun 20th Dec at 11:30am)

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your generosity to weekend 25th Oct collections: Weekly Collection £326.36, Shrines £88.13, Donate £70. Please note Monthly Stipend and Weekly Collections this weekend!!!

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.

**DONATE** button for donations to parish available, where you may wish to donate using a credit/debit card. See link at [www.saintanthony.co.uk](http://www.saintanthony.co.uk)

**Use of Standing Orders for Collections.** Forms for diocesan, non-diocesan, weekly and monthly collections are available in the sacristy.

**Diocesan Masses and Services on webcams/online.** See list at: [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org) including link to **Parish of St Anthony, Belfast Facebook page** for Live broadcasting of Mass.

**Times of Masses at St Anthony's Church:** The public Mass times for Weekend and Weekday are: **English: Sat vigil 6:30pm, Sun 11:30am, Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Friday 7pm (Facebook Live)**

**Polish: Sun 9am & 7pm, Tues & Thurs 7pm, Sat 9am**

Monday Mass in English at 9:30am will still be celebrated in private (also broadcast on Facebook).

**Coronavirus Regulations (Summary)** Of course if someone has an underlying vulnerable disability, as the obligation to attend mass is still suspended, they should be encouraged not to attend and/or view mass online. If they are showing symptoms of a temperature, and/or a new persistent cough, and/or loss of taste or smell, they should also stay at home and book a test using the NHS Number 111 or contact their GP clinic by phone to organise this.

**Face Coverings.** It is now mandatory for face coverings to be worn when entering or exiting the church. This is in addition to the Diocesan recommendations that face coverings be worn at all times while in the church.

**Track and trace.** StopCOVID-19 NI APP (Highly recommended). Once someone has a positive test, manual contact tracing will be initiated. It will operate in parallel, encouraging 'high risk' contacts that might have been missed otherwise, to get tested. The app is one way of helping to

control the spread of COVID-19.

**Funerals and Weddings.** Attendance at funerals is limited to 25 persons with no pre- or post- funeral gatherings. Attendance at weddings is limited to 25 persons, though the bridal party is not obligated to wear face coverings.

In our Pastoral Area, the local agreement is to remain seated throughout the Mass, and to receive Holy Communion on the Hand. But if a parishioner insists on receiving on the tongue, then the priest/eucharist minister must sanitize his hand with alcohol gel before continuing.

Please follow directions from our Stewards to assign you to your place, and guide you for Holy Communion. At weekend masses, congregation for Holy Communion starts from the back and moves forward row by row. Full list of measure can be found in the Executive Office statement at: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/executive-tightens-restrictions-curb-covid-19>

**November Lists of Deceased** Lists with envelopes are available in the church porch. Names of our loved-ones who have died can be written on the sheets, and placed into the envelope provided. A donation is welcome but not necessary. These can be placed in the collection basket or in the Collection Box in the sanctuary. These will be opened and the sheets placed on the altar and remembered at masses during November.

**Diocesan Mass of Deceased.** Bishop Noel will celebrate Mass in Saint Peter's Cathedral for all who have died in the Diocese this year, on Wednesday 18th November at 7pm. This Mass will be streamed on the Cathedral webcam, <https://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>. We are asking each parish in the Diocese to send in a list of all those who died in their parishes from 1st January 2020 to [novena@downandconnor.org](mailto:novena@downandconnor.org) so we can place the names of those who died in 2020 in front of the altar during this Mass.

**Northern Pastoral Network—November A Month To Remember.** The Northern Pastoral Network (a group of clergy and laity from across the Northern Dioceses) has prepared a simple resource for prayer at home during the month of November. The short booklet highlights the month of November as a time to remember and pray for our dearly departed. It marks out the feast days, provides a family prayer service and some additional prayers for this time. May it bring comfort, solace and the light of Christ to many people during the coming days and weeks.

**Dromantine Retreat Centre Events in November 2020. 'Loss and Recovery.'** Fr. Jim Cogley, 14th November (9.30am – 5.00pm). This seminar will explore loss in its many facets and how it is also an invitation to wholeness. "While the heart grieves for what it has lost, the Spirit dances for that which it has found." Full cost £35. For more information contact Dromantine Retreat And Conference Centre, Newry, Co Down, N. Ireland, BT34 1R1L. Tel: +44 2830 821964. email: [admin@dromantineconference.com](mailto:admin@dromantineconference.com).

**The Irish Catholic Newspaper.** Baroness Nuala O'Loan has written to all dioceses in Ireland to remind parishioners of the need to keep up to date in matters concerning the Church. She has strongly encouraged that parishioners should subscribe to the Irish Catholic Newspaper. During the Lockdown the paper was discontinued to be sent. But with "normalisation" we encourage you to subscribe. Anyone interested is asked to contact Fr McCann ASAP.

**Mary's Meals – Double the Love.** At Mary's Meals we are inspired by the courageous 'yes' of Mary. Her total trust in God in the face of numerous challenges gave the World the most precious gift of all – Jesus. Throughout this year of many challenges we have continued to say yes, with the help of our generous supporters, to feeding children their daily meal in a place of education even when obstacles arose. Now we are delighted to share with you a new opportunity to say yes and provide hope to 43,000 children in Bong County, Liberia. From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, any donations made to the Double The Love campaign will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Each little act of love will provide double the support for families in Liberia and the hope of a better future for their children. More information can be found at [www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove)

**Drumalis Advent Day of Reflection.** Saturday, 19 December 2020, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Led by Sr Pam Thimmes OSC and hosted by Drumalis via Zoom. For most of us 2020 has been an unprecedented time – a time of change, loss and grief, confusion, discovery, wonder and uncertainty. In some ways it has been an extended advent (arrival, emergence). The cost of the Day of Reflection is £20 per person or £30 per household. Payment in full is required to secure your place. If you would like to book a place, please email [drumalis@btconnect.com](mailto:drumalis@btconnect.com) We welcome credit and debit card payments during office hours – tel 028 28272196/28276455 (Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm). See poster in porch.

**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.