

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 October 2017

Year A

Issue 45

PROMISE KEEPERS

We value people who keep their word, who come through on things and are true and truthful in their undertakings. But I have to say that when it comes to the two sons in the Gospel parable today – the first son impresses me. Perhaps it's because a large part of me is in both sons. A large part of each of us are ones who can make a bad decision, but try their best to recover from it. Maybe as a consequence, one of my frustrations is being asked to make snap decisions. I resist it fiercely.

Apart from health decisions, very few things in life are so important that they are that urgent.

The hearers of Jesus were in no doubt that this story of the two sons was about them. The second son outwardly said and did the right thing (or gave that impression), the first son, headstrong, impudent, disobedient with an overly quick “no” before he had time to think. He reminds us of people whose lives were disorderly and yet they were the ones open to change.

Today's Readings

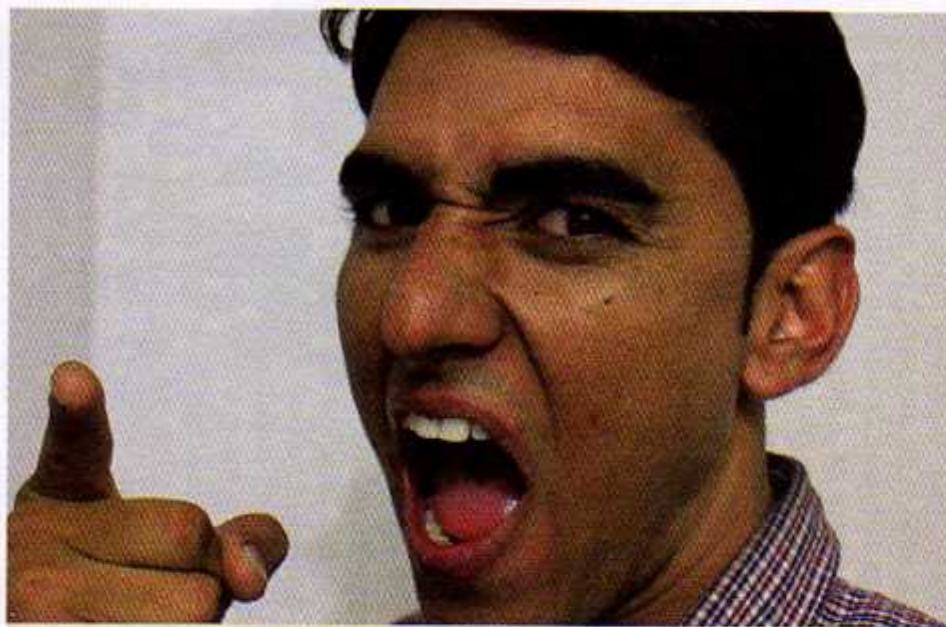


Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalm 24:4-9
Philemon 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 79:9,12-16,19-20
Philemon 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43



we weren't quite able to say "Yes." But then a while later... minutes... hours... years... you change your mind and you go into the vineyard, lending a hand with joy. For it is never too late and your "No" is never so fixed that you can't let go and let the Lord change our mind and heart.

We usually appreciate that quality in people to reflect on an initial decision and have a change of mind. It's seen as weakness by some but I do believe the Lord appreciates that same quality in us, to reconsider and move accordingly.

Why do we change our mind about things? Maybe when the first call came,

We are too hasty at times. I read advice somewhere that when you are on the receiving end of an angry outburst, say nothing, listen patiently and when the angry person has run out of steam simply ask, "Are you ok, have you said everything you want to say now?" and simply carry on as if it was never said. I think the Lord acts in such a way to our foolish rants, giving us time and space to think better of our initial response to him. For our God is always one for a second chance (first reading). ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

Prayerfully consider the parable of the willing son and the rebellious son and link it with your own life.

Lesson

For our God is always one for a second chance.

Prayer

Lord, turn our hearts to you and guide us through repentance to the joy of your Kingdom.



This Week (2–8 October)

- 2 **Mon** The Guardian Angels
- 3 **Tue** St Thomas of Cantalupe; St Columba Marmion
- 4 **Wed** St Francis of Assisi
- 5 **Thur** St Faustina, religious
- 6 **Fri** St Bruno, priest
- 7 **Sat** Our Lady of the Rosary
- 8 **Sun** TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





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)



26th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME DAY FOR LIFE

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 jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Thomas Murphy, Patricia Watson, Kathleen Conn, Anniversaries: Kitty Gibney, James Curran, Catherine Patricia Lord, Fr Dan Meenagh (Sun 1st Oct at 11:30am), Marie Rose McPhillips (Sat 7th Oct at 6:30pm), Mary Jane McGreevy (Sat 28th Oct at 6:30pm)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 1st October

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Martina McClory & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Wright
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

Sun 8th October

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £685.10, Autumn Collection £17, Monthly Stipend £10, Shrines £92.41. 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 been away and 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.

PLEASE NOTE: THE OLD ONE POUND COIN GOES OUT OF LEGAL TENDER THE WEEKEND OF 15TH OCTOBER. PLEASE LET PEOPLE KNOW AND USE UP THE COIN. AFTER THAT DATE PLEASE USE THE NEW COIN.

Day for Life is celebrated annually by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland and England and Wales. It is a day dedicated to celebrating and upholding the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. This year's Day for Life will be celebrated in Ireland on Sunday 1 October and will focus on the theme: 'Fostering a Culture that Protects Life and Respects Women'. See Prayer Cards in Porch.

Today marks the first day of the Mission Month of October. World Missions Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission and is responsible for coordinating Mission Sunday in Ireland. A calendar of events has been put in place by World Missions Ireland throughout the month of October, details of which can be found on our website (www.wmi.ie).

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 last Monday's meeting (Mon 25th Sept) available in the sacristy.

Training for Informal Caregivers is a free course for friends or family members who are caring for a person with dementia. The course provides information about dementia, legal and financial issues, communication and available services. Please find attached a list of courses taking place throughout Belfast from September-December. See poster in Church Porch.

40 Days for Life - From Wednesday 27th Sept to Sunday 5th Nov, Precious Life is urging all Christians to unite in a focused 40 Day campaign to end abortion. We are asking you to pray, fast and join our prayer vigils outside the Marie Stopes and Family Planning centres in Belfast. For more info and your FREE Prayer Pack please contact: (028) 9027 8484 or info@preciouslife.com.

Mary & Mercy Tour comes to Belfast. Experience the time of mercy! Best-selling Catholic author Fr Michael Gaitley MIC is visiting Ireland in October to talk on Mary & Mercy. Fr Gaitley has sold over 2 million copies of his book '33 Days to Morning Glory' on personal consecration to Mary, and he's also written on Divine Mercy and St Therese. He'll be appearing at St Patrick's, Donegal St, Belfast at 7.30pm on Friday 6th October giving his own personal testimony and speaking about Our Lady and mercy. Everyone is welcome to attend this uplifting evening. A poster showing other such meetings in Ireland can be found in the Porch.

Loss and Blessings Day at Tobar Mhuire Crossgar. Saturday 11th November 2017 at 10.30am - 4pm. Spend a day at Tobar Mhuire to remember your dead friends and relatives. Price £30 which includes tea/coffee and light lunch. Contact Tobar Mhuire Retreat Centre, 16a Downpatrick Road, Crossgar, Downpatrick. BT30 9EQ. 028 44 830242. www.tobarmhuirecrossgar.com.

Beginning Experience - Are you suffering the pain of loss of a partner? Looking for help and understanding? Beginning Experience (a support group for widowed, separated and divorced people) meets every Wednesday evening from 8pm to 10pm in St Bride's Hall, 38, Derryvoigie Avenue, Malone Rd, Belfast. Starts at 8pm. All welcome. For details please contact Phil Tel: 028 90207645 or Marie Tel: 07896119669.

Pathways - Adult Faith Development Programme at Drumalis - Enrol now for 2017-2019 intake. Pathways is a broad-based adult faith development course which explores spirituality, theology and prayer. No academic qualifications are necessary and there is no coursework attached. This two-year programme supported by the Diocese of Down and Connor runs from October to June each year and will be held on nine Saturdays from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm. For info & booking form, please contact Drumalis - 028 2827 2196/2827 6455 (during office hours), email maura@drumalis.co.uk or see the Drumalis website: <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>.

A Weekend of Prayer for our Land, Knock Shrine, Co. Mayo. Friday 20th October 4:30pm - 9:30pm, Saturday 21st October 9am - 9:30pm, Sunday 22nd 9am - 2pm. Prayer, Praise, Worship, Teaching, Music, Testimony, Confession, Holy Mass & Healing. Speakers: FR JOHN KEANE, NOEL BYRNE, AIDAN BYRNE, FR LAWRENCE CFR, OF MOYROSS. Contact Patricia 087 9130909, Theresa 086 3241269. See poster in Porch.

Taizé at Clonard 17th of October. A special evening of Taizé prayer, music and reflection will take place in Clonard Church on Tuesday the 17th of October at 7:30pm. The Taizé Community is an ecumenical monastic order in Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz. Taizé is a place of great pilgrimage for many young people from around the world every year. Brother Jean Marie from the Taizé Community will join us for this special evening. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Catholic Young Adult Conference (18-40) at the Catholic Chaplaincy, QUB on Saturday, 21 October 2017. Theme: 'Answering Objections to Catholicism'. Talks and workshops with speakers including Fr Andrew Black, Fr Martin Graham and the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia. 10am-5.30pm. Cost £10 inc lunch. To book a place call 077 5337 9110.

The World Meeting of Families Icon will be present in two Belfast parishes for special services and Masses as follows: - **Holy Family Church, Newington Avenue, Belfast** - Prayer service 7.30pm on Monday 2nd October. The church will be open until 9pm. Morning Mass 9.15am on Tuesday 3rd October - Prayer service at 7.30 pm. The church will be open all day until 9pm. **Corpus Christi Church, Springhill Grove, Belfast** - Evening prayer of the Church 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th October. The church will be open until midnight. Morning Mass 10am on Thursday 5th October. Solemn Mass of the Holy Family 7.30pm. The church will be open all day until 9pm.

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.