

Parish Newsletter

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Year A

8 October 2017
Issue 46

OF WALLS AND PEOPLE

We're not that keen on walls in our world. In my lifetime, I've seen the Berlin Wall fall in 1989 and the Jerusalem/Palestine wall go up. More locally, as I write, political concerns are on a future border between Northern Ireland and the Republic. Will it be a "hard" or "soft" border? I'm not sure where the infamous proposed U.S./Mexico wall issue is, probably kicked to touch at an estimated cost of \$21 billion.

And then I read the Gospel of today and we see a "fence" and a watch "tower" in the vineyard that Jesus describes. So what gives? Some would say the tower is the Church, a kind of overseeing role warning of dangers to us who live within the boundaries of the hedge. And the tower (the Church) is also standing forth as a sign of contradiction to the hostile world outside, which seeks to devour the fruit of the vineyard. A hedge implies limits

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 25:6-10
Psalm 22:1-6
Philemon 4:12-14,19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

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and boundaries and also that God has put a hedge of protection around us to protect from the wild animals that would devour the crop within. But it's definitely a hard border no matter which way you want to look at it.

But the vineyard is the people. Everything has been done to bring forth the fruit. And what fruits does the

"Maybe faith is a gift, some have it, others don't."

Lord seek? The values and fruits of the Kingdom: faith, justice, mercy, peace, forgiveness, faithfulness, generosity, love of the poor, love of one's family and friends, even love of one's enemy, kindness, truth, sincerity, courage to speak the truth and witness to the faith. It's a long list, and nobody gets it right – but we try.

And what happens? Well, from Sowing the Seed, we have not a harvest but a sinning. The tenants even think they can usurp the owner and at best fail to recognise the various servants he sent to collect what was due. I've met all kinds of people who don't recognise or choose to recognise what is godly and good in life. Maybe faith is a gift, some have it, others don't. Some struggle with belief, but are open to it, others have a deep hurt, which festers within, whilst others have a passionate hatred for church, religion, and anything to do with God to be straight about it.

At the end the deal is that if you don't want the Kingdom, you don't have to. Everyone wants heaven of course, but what is heaven but the fullness of the Kingdom of God? A Kingdom we are called to bear some fruit to in our earthly life. Time to get busy! ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

What produce has God obtained from you, a tenant of his vineyard?

Lesson

The values and fruits of the Kingdom: faith, justice, mercy, peace, forgiveness, faithfulness...

Prayer

Lord, make us faithful tenants of your Kingdom.

This Week (9–15 October)

- 9 **Mon** Bl John Henry Newman; St Denis
- 10 **Tue** St Paulinus of York, bishop
- 11 **Wed** St Canice, abbot
- 12 **Thur** St Wilfrid, bishop
- 13 **Fri** St Edward the Confessor
- 14 **Sat** St Callistus I, pope and martyr
- 15 **Sun** TWENTY-EIGHTH 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)



27th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 21:33-43

1. The target audience of this allegorical parable are the Jewish chief priests and elders portrayed here as rejecting Jesus and his teaching, and as a consequence losing out on what God was offering them. It is a story of opportunity for life presented and rejected, and they lose out in the process. How important have you found it to recognise and accept opportunities for growth, development and new life when these were presented to you?
2. The parable is also a cautionary tale about the destructive effects of greed – doing violence to the rights of others and eventually destroying the greedy themselves. What attitude towards possessions has helped you to be at peace in yourself and at peace with others?
3. The vineyard of the Lord is an image for God's people. As we look at the vineyard we have been given we can ask ourselves 'are we good tenants?' Recall times when you have been a good tenant, and reached out caring for those around you.
4. 'It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it was wonderful to see'. Sometimes a person not highly regarded plays a key role in a project, and it is wonderful to see. Can you recall examples of this?

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@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 McNagh, Marie Rose McPhillips (Sat 7th Oct at 6:30pm), Patricia McDonnell Nwoga (Sat 14th Oct at 6:30pm), Mary Jane McGreevy (Sat 28th Oct at 6:30pm)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 15th October
READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Shauna Mullen
Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan



COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Monthly Stipend £602.17, Autumn Collection £15, Weekly Collection £78.50, Shrines £85.66. 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.

Sunday, 8th October 2017: World Mission Sunday is in two weeks' time!
Please remember that in two weeks' time, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection, the Mission Sunday collection. World Missions Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission and is responsible for coordinating Mission Sunday in Ireland. All of the Mission Sunday materials are available on World Missions Ireland's 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.

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.

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. BT130 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, Derryvolgie Avenue, Malone Rd, Belfast. Starts at 8pm. All welcome. For details please contact Phil Tel: 028 90207645 or Marie Tel: 07896119669.

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.

Fatima Comes to Ballymena. To mark the centenary of Our Lady's apparition in Fatima, Ballymena parish is hosting a 24 hour vigil of prayer on 12th-13th October. The vigil begins at 6pm on Thursday 12th at All Saints' Church with Mass at 7.30pm, 12 midnight, and 10am, 12noon and 7.30pm on Friday 13th. Confessions will be available from 11am-12noon and 6.30-7.30pm on Friday 13th. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place throughout the day and night, and it will be interspersed with the rosary, readings and music. Pope Francis has granted a special indulgence for those celebrate the anniversary of Fatima this year, and this vigil brings Fatima and its message here to us at home! Follow us on Facebook fb.me/ballymenacatholic. See poster in porch.

Dedication of Studies Mass at Queen's University. The Dedication of Studies Mass for the new academic year will be celebrated on Sunday 8th October at 6.30pm in the Catholic Chaplaincy at Queen's University, 28 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast. The chief celebrant this year will be Bishop Donal McKeown, Bishop of Derry. All university students, Year 14 students, and their families, are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after Mass. For enquiries contact the Chaplaincy on 028 9066 9737, or qubc@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 PP.