

Parish Newsletter



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Year A

15 October 2017
Issue 47

A WONDROUS MIX

Weddings are part of the life of a priest. Over the years there have been subtle changes. No longer expected to make a speech, just to “top” and “tail” the meal with a grace before and after meals. It’s partly due of course to there being fewer priests, weekend weddings being harder to attend and the varying attitude of priests to weddings. Priests can either love, loathe or tolerate them. Some enjoy the conversations (until the

music begins!) and priests go home at varying intervals. One priest colleague told us of a wedding where he had just said his farewells and overheard the father of the bride say (thinking “Father” was out of earshot): “I’m glad Father has gone – we can play some real rock music now.” He meant no harm, but the remark stung the priest as a guest – ok to have to adorn a top table, but best out of sight when real life begins. We have somehow

Today's Readings

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

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalm 95:1-5, 7-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Matthew 22:15-21

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developed a weird idea that Church and earthliness are incompatible. Strangely it's an attitude that you find in two very different groups – the over-pious and the militantly impious – that somehow God and robust life can't co-exist.

It's false of course. When we say "the Word was made flesh" we mean that within the rawness of life, God exists. Not to be restricted to a time and space in life – God is in all of life. The first reading reminds me of all those earthly feasts I have been part of. I think of the people who provided them and somehow on a Sunday I think of those who choose not to come to the banquet of the Eucharist. I hope that those of us who do come to the invitation aren't thought of like the

A-list guests of the Gospel who turned out to be murderers, or the B-list "bad and good alike".

But we are a mixed bunch gathered here. A wondrous mix of the weak and the strong, the doubting and the convinced, the liar and the truth-teller, the foolish and the wise, the selfish and the generous, the vain and the modest, the addicted and the temperate, the envious and the content, the cruel and the kind. All of life.

But we'd do well to remember that the man at the end was not so much thrown out for not having a tuxedo (wedding garments were provided at the time of Jesus), more was expected than just showing up. It's also about how we live our life as a guest of the King, not how we outwardly appear. "Look not on our sin, but on the faith of your Church" (Roman Missal). ■

– Tom Cox

Reflection

In your life what characterises you as a person who has accepted God's invitation to the wedding banquet?

Lesson

It's about how we live our life as a guest of the King, not how we outwardly appear.

Prayer

Lord, you are the God whose generosity knows no bounds and who calls us to share your heavenly banquet. Amen.

This Week (16–22 October)

- 16 Mon** St Hedwig; St Richard Gwyn
- 17 Tue** St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr
- 18 Wed** ST LUKE, EVANGELIST
- 19 Thur** Ss John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & companions
- 20 Fri** St Irene of Portugal
- 21 Sat** St Hilarion, abbot; St Celina
- 22 Sun** TWENTY-NINTH 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)



28th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 22:1-14

There are two parables here that Matthew has joined together. Looking at the first one:

1. Scripture often speaks of the kingdom of God as a banquet. The image of people being at a meal where everyone is happy and welcome and where all hunger and thirst is satisfied gets across the idea that God loves, accepts and welcomes us and wants us to make that experience available to one another. Think of times in your life when you have had 'banquet' experiences and when you have felt accepted and loved?
2. The host enlists the help of his servants to invite people to the banquet. We are commissioned by the Lord to invite people to the banquet of the kingdom, to the fullness of life - as parents, teachers, friends, etc. What has it been like for you to play a part in leading others to a fuller life?
3. As in the parable last week there is a message about being alert to invitations that offer a fuller life and the danger of losing out if we neglect to respond to such invitations. Perhaps there have been opportunities offered to you that you missed, and now regret. Think also of the blessings you received because you seized the moment and took an opportunity that presented itself.
4. The second parable puts the focus on how we respond to invitations. Some invitations are ones that challenge us to change, to conversion, to put on a 'wedding garment'. What has been your experience of changing in response to an invitation you received?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbbyraosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Catherine Patricia Lord, Fr Dan Meenagh, Marie Rose McPhillips, Patricia McDonnell Nwoga (Sat 14th Oct at 6:30pm), Mary Jane McGreevy (Sat 28th Oct at 6:30pm)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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

Sun 22nd October
READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Martina McClory

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £693.45, Monthly Stipend £54, Shrines £80.33. 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, 15th October 2017: next Sunday is World Mission Sunday. Next Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection. Every person in every parish in every country where the Church is present will be celebrating together and sharing what they have, no matter how little. It is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for missionary activity.

Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. It is also the one Sunday in the year when your generosity goes directly to help mission parishes overseas and reach out with Jesus' message of hope and love. World Missions Ireland is the Holy Father's official charity for overseas mission. It is responsible for coordinating Mission Sunday in Ireland and, through local bishops, churches, and missionary congregations around the world, ensures that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked so please give what you can. Thank You.

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 9th Oct) available in the sacristy.

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.

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.

Viaiores Christi - Overseas Volunteers Required! Volunteer IT/HR Admins, Montessori/Primary/Secondary Teachers, Physios, Accountants, Social Workers... all required for funded placements on Missions in Africa, SE Asia and the Caribbean. No previous overseas exp required, no upper age limit! Contact Viaiores Christi +353-1-8689986 or email apply@viaioreschristi.com for more info.

St. Agnes' Choral Society presents: The Gift of Music, Saturday 11th November 2017 at 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Carryduff. Ticket - £12.50 (includes light refreshments). Tickets available from Charlie on 07850203835, Eamon on 07802354799 or Parish Office on 028 90812238 option 2. Proceeds in aid of St. Bernadette's Church Restoration Fund and the The Lighthouse Charity. Organised by the Knights of St Columbanus CK29.

Certificate in Christian Thought - Adult Faith Development at Drumalis in association with St. Mary's University College, Belfast - Last chance to enrol for 2017-2019 intake. The Certificate in Christian Thought aims to offer a space where adults can explore, reflect upon, discuss and study faith and how it relates to life in today's world, both at a personal and community level. This course is offered to men and women from all walks of life, who have completed the Pathways course or its equivalent. It is possible to do the course for validation by St Mary's University College or for personal development only. This two-year programme runs from October to June each year and will be held on nine Saturdays from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at Drumalis. For further information and booking form, please contact Drumalis - 028 2827 2196/2827 6455 (during office hours, Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm) or email drumalis@btconnect.com

Mary's Meals are having a Cake Sale on Sunday 22nd October after the 11:30am Mass. Suzanne Hopkins will be speaking after Mass this Sunday 15th October about the work of Mary's Meals in St Anthony's Parish so far.

A member of Shalom World Northern Ireland will be speaking of the work of Shalom, including Shalom Tidings Magazine at the Masses of Weekend 28/29th October.

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.