



THE BANQUET OF LIFE

This is a difficult parable. The storyline is highly improbable. When the wedding preparations are far advanced, the king breaks off to go and fight a war. Later when he invites servants to bring in people off the street, he is angry that they are not appropriately dressed. Who goes around the streets dressed for a wedding banquet?

Yet in some ways this is a parable for our time, a time when so many are deaf to the possibility that God might be inviting them to a fuller life. There

are many attractive things in our world today. We can fill our lives with the pleasures of possessions, power, sex, status and other things that this world offers. There is so much around us, apparently within easy reach, that



ADD ANOTHER STITCH

God our Father invites us all to his great wedding feast in heaven! In living out our married life, we have been making our wedding garment! It is woven, sewn and stitched with all the little acts of loving kindness, long forgotten, the courtesies in every little action we show toward each other, our children, family and friends.

– *Marriage Matters*

www.twainoneflesh.org.uk

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 45:1.4-6

Psalms 95:3-5.7-10

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

John 17:11.17-23

many feel no need to look to God. Indeed, it has always been so. Many years ago, the North African bishop St Augustine spent many years of his life searching for meaning and satisfaction in the pleasures of this world, steadfastly refusing to look to God, or to the word of God, to find the answer to his search for happiness. Later he would describe his attitude to the gospels in this way: 'I had too much conceit to accept their simplicity and not enough insight to penetrate their depths. It is surely true that as the child grows these books grow with him. But I was too proud to call myself a child. I was inflated with self-esteem, which made me think of myself as a great man.' (*Confessions* 3.5)

Augustine was in his early thirties when his attitude towards the word of

God changed and thus a new phase in his life began. This can be summed up in his own words, 'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.'

The parable describes the blessings that God wants to give us as a wedding banquet: a feast with the best of food and drink, a joyful meal where all are gathered in friendship, celebration and gratitude. This image is not just a description of heaven but also a picture of the Christian community on earth when we are at our best. Think of times in your life when your experience of being a part of the Christian community was a 'banquet' experience - when you had the sense of being at one with others in thanksgiving to God and in a spirit of service to others. ■

— John Byrne, OSA



Reflection

What has reminded you that a full life needs more than the pleasures of this world?



Lesson

This day is a new gift from God. How will we choose to live it?



Prayer

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want. ...

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. (Ps 23)



This Week (12–18 October)

- 12 M** St Wilfrid, bishop
- 13 T** St Edward the Confessor
- 14 W** St Callistus I, pope and martyr
- 15 T** St Teresa of Avila, virgin and doctor
- 16 F** St Hedwig; St Margaret Mary Alacoque
- 17 S** St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr
- 18 S** 29th 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

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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



28th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. (Matthew 22:1-14)

*O Christ, your father prepared a banquet for us.
He set a table, killed the fattened calf.*

He gave us the very finest wine. And he invited us to come, each and every one, every single one, to this table of plenty.

*Oh Jesus, what shall we wear? Would you be our garment?
Let us put on your mind and your heart.*

*Then we can relish the morsels, savour the wine;
and taste your love, which is the most beloved of all foods.*

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Frances Swift, Claire Caldwell, Sr Mairead Bradley CP, Joe Mulligan (father of Fr Declan), Maureen McCann (aunt of Fr Henry, requiem mass Tues 13th Oct at 8pm), Tony Richardson

Anniversaries: Denis Carr, Kitty Gibney, Frances Matthews, James Curran, Peggy Wilson, Patsy Mackin (2nd Anniv), Catherine Patricia Lord (Sun 11th Oct at 11:30am), Peggy Wilson, Gerard Wilson, Fr Des Wilson, Liam Wilson, Raymond Matthews (Sun 18th Oct at 11:30am), Michael Matthews (Sun 25th Oct at 11:30am), Nancy Groogan (Sun 8th Nov at 11:30am), Minnie Tanney (Sun 15th Nov at 11:30am)

COLLECTIONS: New boxes of envelopes are available. Many thanks for your generosity to last weekend's collections: Monthly Stipend £573.80, DONATE £100.

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

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 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).

Some General Points on the Update of Diocesan Guidelines for attending Masses in the Church: The guidelines published on 26th June: <https://www.downandconnor.org/blog/2020/06/26/26-june-2020-guidance-on-re-opening-of-churches-for-public-worship/>, were updated on 3rd September in an email to clergy.

- We have done much in preparation for the opening of the churches to parishioners to attend Public Celebration of Masses. We have marked out the church with signs and floor markings, cordoned off seats to allow social distancing between people, and provided more stations for Alcohol Gel Sanitiser, and we have volunteer stewards and cleaners who are working to make sure that the church is clean and safe for parishioners to attend. And we must thank all who have given of their time to ensure the church can remain open for Public Mass. If you'd like to join the group of volunteers please let parish know.
- 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.
- Updated guidelines, which fulfil Diocesan Insurers can stand by the protocols in place, include:

- **USE OF FACE-COVERINGS** (Obligatory). As per previous guidance the wearing of face coverings is recommended and encouraged at all Masses and all other liturgical celebrations in church, along with the ongoing maintenance of 2 metre physical distancing. Some people are exempted from the wearing of face coverings, as outlined at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-face-coverings>.

- **CHOIRS, INSTRUMENTS AND CONGREGATIONAL SINGING** (Obligatory). The current recommendation of "one cantor and one instrumentalist" included in the Irish Episcopal Conference Framework Document issued on 9th June 2020 remains unchanged for now. Parts of the Mass which may ordinarily be sung by members of a congregation should be recited. Until advised otherwise congregations are not permitted to sing.

- **StopCOVID-19 NI APP** (Highly recommended). HSC has developed the StopCOVID NI App (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/stopcovid-ni-app-explainer-leaflet>) to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus. At present, the app does not link to the contact tracing service directly. 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.

- 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.

First Holy Communion Polish Community: Saturday 17th October at 10am.

Mary's Meals—10th October is World Porridge Day. Vitamin enriched porridge plays a vital role in Mary's Meals feeding programmes in many African countries. £15.90 is a it takes to provide a years meals for one child. This year we are asking you to donate the cost of your breakfast that morning. Collection at weekend masses. Thanks for your support.

Rosary for the Month of October. Archbishop Eamonn Martin is asking families to pray the Rosary together for the month of October in what is called the Family Rosary Crusade against the effects of Covid-19.

Rosary on the Coast for Life & Faith in Ireland will take place on Sunday October 11th. This year we will again join in with many other countries from around the world. We will gather on our coasts, at our grottos, our churches, our river banks, our homes, or wherever we can..... to pray the Rosary safely together, at 2.30pm. Please do remember to observe Covid-19 guidelines. See www.coastalrosaryireland.ie to see locations near you or to register a location.

Mission Sunday 18th October 2020. Mission Sunday is a day set aside for the Catholic Church throughout the world to publicly renew its commitment to the missionary movement. This October, World Mission Sunday will take place over the weekend of 18th. Worryingly it is in jeopardy. The pandemic will mean fewer offerings for this vital collection. The implications for overseas missionaries and communities in the months ahead will be devastating. Please, if you are in a position to help, do so right now. Support overseas missionaries in the Collection.

Safeguarding Sunday This year, as Bishop of the Diocese, I have designated Sunday 25th October as 'Safeguarding Sunday'. This will be an opportunity for all the parishes to pray together and acknowledge the dedication of hundreds of Volunteers in our parishes who serve in the ministry of Safeguarding across the Diocese. During the celebration of the Sunday liturgy we will also renew our commitment to the pastoral care of victims of abuse of every kind as well as young people and adults in our parishes. **On Sunday 25th October, 7pm, parishioners are invited to join online the celebration of Evening Prayer, led by Bishop Noel Treanor, from St. Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.** To join, kindly follow the links to the Cathedral webcam: <http://www.churchservices.tv/stpeterscathedral>

Dromantine Retreat Centre Events in November 2020. (the centre plans to re-open on 1st November)

'BROKEN OPEN': How difficult times can help us grow. Fr. Hugh Lagan SMA, 2nd November (9.30am) – 3rd November (5.00pm). This workshop will explore the potential for discovering courage, compassion and wisdom even in the most painful of life circumstances. Full cost £115 or £125.

'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 1RH. Tel: +44 2830 821964, email: admin@dromantineconference.com

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.