

Parish Newsletter



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17 SEPTEMBER 2017

Year A

Issue 43



OPENING ALL DOORS

It's an interesting Gospel... it reminds us today that it's possible to receive forgiveness but not truly experience forgiveness.

The servant was forgiven much, but could not "pass it on" by forgiving little. I've always liked the idea of forgiveness being like the breath in your lungs. You can only take more in if you're letting yours out. Forgiveness is indeed a beautiful concept until you have something and someone to actually forgive.

I'm not sure if you heard the story of a man who was bitten by a rabid dog – the tests showed he had contracted rabies. At that time, there was no cure and the man was told his condition was terminal. The medical team promised to do all they could to make him comfortable, but advised him to put his "affairs in order". The man sank back into his bed in despair, but an hour later asked for pen and paper and was seen working with great enthusiasm. The doctor passed by an hour later and said, "I'm glad to see that you're

Today's Readings



Ecclesiasticus (Sir) 27:30-28:7
Psalm 102:1-4,9-12
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 55:6-9
Psalm 144:2-3,8-9,17-18
Philemon 1:20-24,27
Matthew 20:1-16

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working on your Will." "This isn't a Will, Doc. This is a list of the people I'm going to bite before I die." It's only a story, but while we've all heard of people having a "bucket list" of things they want to do before they die, some of us have a "Bible list" of people we can't/won't forgive. A list that we live with, every day of our lives, written in our minds, if not on paper.

It's understandable. Forgiveness is simply not natural and it's not fair. It offends against justice and it's not the way the world acts. It's always worthwhile reminding people that forgiveness is not forgetting, neither is forgiveness justifying, excusing or understanding the other and their actions. Forgiveness is simply forgiveness: it's choosing the way we wish to respond emotionally to a person, it's NOT pardon which is more

about the consequences of the offence. Unless you're an earthly judge or in the last court – God – none of us can pardon fully.

It seems odd that the servant forgiven a huge amount had learned nothing and couldn't cancel a tiny debt owed to him. But how many of us with planks, focus only on the splinters in others' eyes? The prison of the unforgiving spirit has to be the worst form of human captivity.

They tell of the great illusionist Harry Houdini who could escape every situation – jail cells being his speciality. One town with a new prison cell invited him to try it out. Confidently Houdini set to work and just couldn't pick this lock. Lathered in sweat he fell against the door and it swung open. It had never been locked. It was only locked in his mind. Time to open our own imprisoning mindsets to the light of forgiveness.

– Tom Cox



Reflection

In which ways do you offer unlimited forgiveness to others as God has offered it to you?



Lesson

The Divine power of God's forgiveness is active in the Church.



Prayer

Heavenly Father, through the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to forgive each other from our heart.



This Week (18–24 September)

- 18 **Mon** St Joseph of Cupertino
- 19 **Tue** St Theodore of Canterbury, bishop
- 20 **Wed** St Andrew Kim Teagon & Comp., martyrs
- 21 **Thur** ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE
- 22 **Fri** St Maurice, martyr
- 23 **Sat** St Eunan; St Pio of Pietrelcina, priest
- 24 **Sun** TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST PAULS is an activity of the Priests and Brothers of the Society of St Paul who proclaim the Gospel through the media of social communications. Tel: 01-6285933 PN43



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)



24th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Jesus surprised Peter by telling him he needed to forgive seventy-seven times. Perhaps you have known the truth of this when something reminds you of a past hurt and you find you need in your heart to forgive again the person who hurt you. What was this like for you? How has a capacity to have a forgiving heart helped you?
2. Sometimes we need to forgive ourselves for things we regret about past behaviour. What happens to you when you cannot do this? How has your ability to forgive yourself for past mistakes influenced your attitude towards yourself now?
3. Are there people whose ability to forgive has inspired you? Recall them and the forgiveness they showed and give thanks for their example.

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Thomas Murphy, Patricia Watson, Kathleen Conn, Anniversaries: Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Carol McGreevy, Thomas & Isobel McGiffin, Kitty Gibney (Sun 10th Sep at 11:30am), James Curran (Sun 17th Sep at 11:30am), Catherine Patricia Lord (Sun 24th Sep at 11:30am), Fr Dan Mecnagh (Sun 1st Oct at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 17th September

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Ann Flanagan & Phyllis McGrillen
Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Suzanne Hopkins

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty
Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan

Sun 24th September

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Shauna Mullen & Anthony Clifford
Morning Mass: Tracey Mallon & Kay Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty
Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection €625.13, Monthly Stipend €65, Cathedral Fund £14.60, Shrines £87.60. 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.

Course for Ministers of the Word. You may recall in previous bulletins that the In-Service training programme for Ministers of the Word, will take place at St. Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street. 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 just before Advent, and just before Easter.) As none of the Ministers of the Word attended the Information Meeting last Mon 11th, an Information Handout is available in the sacristy.

4th Diocesan Faith and Life Convention. Bishop Treanor invites you to attend our fourth Faith and Life Convention on Saturday 30th September 2017 in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, Belfast beginning at 10am. This year we are delighted to welcome Cardinal Kevin Farrell as our keynote speaker. He will speak to us on the theme: Faith in the Family. In the afternoon each participant will have the opportunity to take part in two workshops from a range of twenty seven. The workshops fill up quickly so it's best to book now! Perhaps the best part of the day is the pleasure of meeting up with a great crowd of committed people from all over the diocese and beyond! Online booking is available at: www.faithandlifeconvention.org Booking forms are also available from the Sacristy. We look forward to seeing you in September.

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.

Foyer of Light, Charity & Love: 5 Day Silent Retreat. Theme: "If you but knew the gift of God..." Preached by: Fr. Kilian Byrne. Venue: Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, Co. Down. Date: October 23rd - 29th. Cost: £360stg full board. Contact: Helen : 00353 86 1678027, www.foyerofcharity.ie. The retreat addresses those who search for God, or who wish to grow in their life of faith and prayer.

Cardinal Cahal B Daly Memorial Lecture. In order to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Cardinal Cahal B Daly, in October this year, there will be a memorial lecture in Queen's University Belfast. The lecture will be given by Archbishop Paul Gallagher, a native of Liverpool, who is the Secretary for Relations with States in The Secretariat of State, Vatican City. All are welcome but we ask that you inform us of your intention to be present by 22nd September: telephone 028 90665409, email stbrigidsparishoffice@gmail.com. Cardinal Cahal B Daly Memorial Lecture. Go the extra mile: Cahal B Daly - Reflections on the practice of dialogue. A lecture in Queen's University Belfast, in Lecture Theatre PFC/OG/007, on 6th October next at 7.00pm.

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, Donegall 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.

Diocesan Liturgy Seminar 2017: Putting on Christ-A Journey of Transformation: The Rite of Christian Initiation in Action. Sat 23rd September, 1:30-4:30pm, St Brigid's Parish Centre, 38 Derryvolgie Ave, Belfast. Registration from 1pm. Presented by Jane Ferguson, a member of The Council for Liturgy of the Irish Bishop's Conference. The Seminar is open to all and the cost is £10 per person. To book contact Malachy McKeever, 07760108903, or email liturgy@downandconnor.org.

Both Lives Matter Petition. BLM is a collaborative movement of organisations and individuals who imagine a people and place that values the life & health of women and unborn children, and pursues the wellbeing of both and we are asking for your support. At the start of the Summer a number of MPs at Westminster took advantage of the political situation here and brought forward legislation to introduce free abortions in GB for women from Northern Ireland. That's why BLM has launched a petition. You can find it on our website, <https://bothlivesmatter.org/take-action> and when you sign it a copy is automatically sent to your local MP and MLAs. There is also a PDF copy to print and use, along with all the information on how to do that. Please join us in upholding the value, dignity and worth of mothers and unborn children in our society. Please sign and share this petition because Both Lives Matter.

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.

Charismatic Renewal is a current of grace for the whole church and is now being currently advocated by Pope Francis. Just to let you know that the Good Shepherd Prayer Group still meets every Saturday night @ 7.15pm, in the room adjacent to the altar. Also accessed by the car park opposite the small gate.

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.