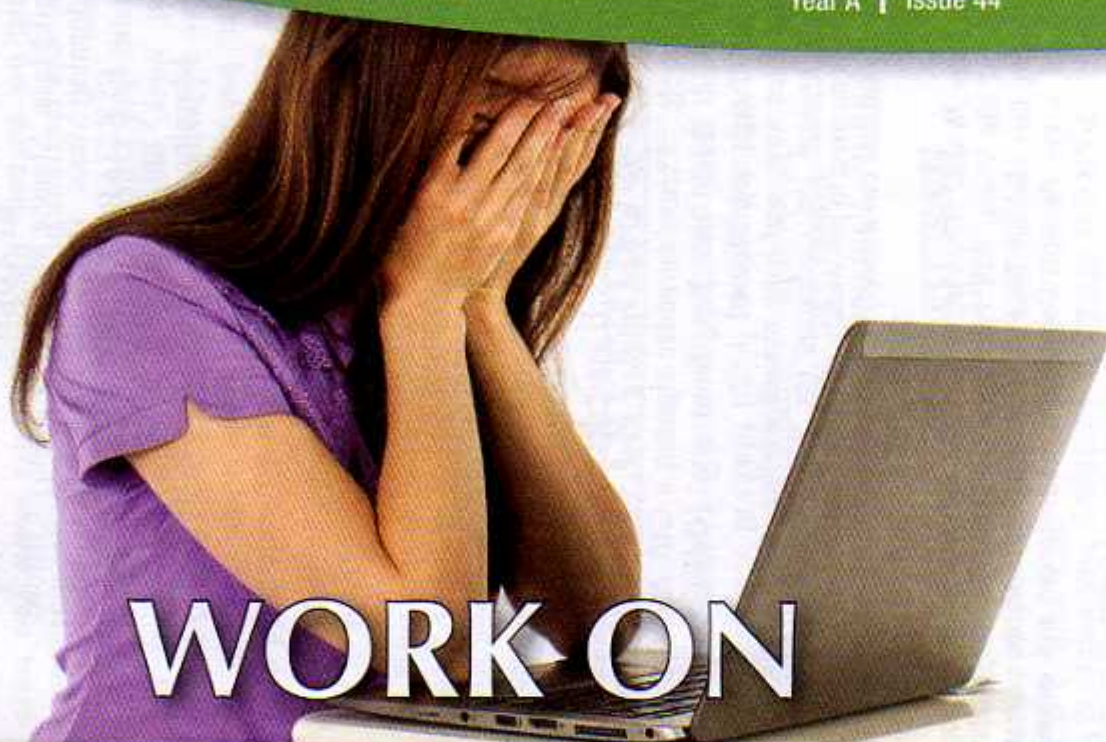


Parish Newsletter



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 24 SEPTEMBER 2017
Year A | Issue 44



WORK ON

I've often thought that this Gospel cut a little close to the bone in Ireland with our folk memory of hiring fairs, and men and women standing publicly – literally available for work. It's the world away from online job offers and CVs being sent in reply and resulting interviews. It's not a perfect process, and people will comment quietly, "It's who you know..." So maybe we've only refined the concept of the "hiring fair". There are many stories in the Irish folklore commission relating to how the young

girls and boys would line the market squares to be inspected by potential employees. Some people I meet can recall of how families split up simply because of poverty with some children being sent out to work or away to people with no children.

The tradition of the hiring fair continued up to the 1940s in parts of Donegal and Tyrone. Paddy "the Cope" Gallagher (grandfather of the present politician of that name), was one such hired help from the Rosses, Donegal. At

Today's Readings



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

Next Sunday's Readings



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

(continued on back page)

an early age, he began work as a hired boy working as a farm labourer, first in County Donegal and then as a potato picker in Scotland. It was this hard work, with its long hours and poor pay, he was later to say, that inspired him to found a co-operative movement back home in County Donegal. His co-op was opposed by local vested interests and he had to buy his own boats to do his importing. He also helped to co-ordinate the local fishing and textile co-operatives, allowing such workers to swap their produce for goods in his local co-operative shop.

He was a man who thought of the next generation, while others thought only of what was of immediate benefit to them and tried to block others "getting on". The point is that God's grace falls equally on all. There are times

whensomeone else gets an unexpected bonus or some special recognition. We should not feel hurt or envious. The race is not against each other to see who is the wealthiest, the richest, the most beautiful person. The race is against the worst part of ourselves. "Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts" (first reading).

Getting greedy, pouting, putting others down – won't elevate your standing one little bit. It didn't for the early Gospel workers. So be kind, and be grateful that God is kind to you. It is a happy way to live. We've all laboured in the heat of the day, suffering with old issues and grievances. The call is to hold on, work on, see it through and at the end let the majesty of Christ returning show the beauty and meaning of your life – a life you may never have understood or had anyone truly appreciate.

– Tom Cox

Reflection

Discover the "justice" of the Kingdom in the "injustice" of the parable.

Lesson

What God gives isn't pay, but a gift, and God is generous to us all.

Prayer

God of the vineyard, give us untiring feet and hands as we labour.



This Week (25 September–1 October)

- 25 Mon** St Finnbar
- 26 Tue** Ss Cosmas and Damian, martyrs
- 27 Wed** St Vincent de Paul, priest
- 28 Thur** St Lorenzo Ruiz & Companions, martyrs
- 29 Fri** Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
- 30 Sat** St Jerome, priest and doctor
- 1 Sun** TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Henry McCann (and Chaplain to the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald)
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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)



25th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 20:1-16

1. 'I was there first'. Envy easily comes to the surface when faced with the good fortune of others, especially when compared to what seems less favourable treatment of ourselves. Can you recall that feeling in yourself and what it did to you? Can you also recall times when you were content with your lot, even though it seemed others had greater gifts, better opportunities, etc.

2. A parent or teacher who gives a lot of time to a difficult child does not love the others less, but if we are one of those other children we may not see that. Recall a 'Jesus person' in your life who helped you to overcome feelings of envy and helped you appreciate that the apparently more favourable treatment of another did not mean a lessening of love for you.

3. This leads us to the core message of this parable, namely, that God's love is a free gift and not earned. Recall moments when you were particularly conscious of the gifts that God has given you by counting all the blessings that you have, no matter how small.

4. 'It is too late now' are words sometimes uttered to justify doing nothing about a situation. This parable tells us that where love is involved, it is never too late. Can you recall times when you got a positive response after taking action when you thought it was 'too late'?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

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

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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 Corcadden

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

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Autumn Collection £478.07, Weekly Collection £316.80, Monthly Stipend £17.50, Shrines £61.10. 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. The First meeting of the In-Service training programme for Ministers of the Word, will take place at St. Malachy's Parish Centre, Alfred Street, starting this Monday 25th September at 7pm. 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.

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

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.

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.

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.