

Parish Newsletter

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9 September 2018
Cycle B | Issue 41

SELECTIVE HEARING

One of the problems for the hearing impaired is that crowded situations, even a meeting where more than one person speaks at once, can overwhelm their hearing aid. There is not one but many sources of sound coming at them, and technology simply cannot isolate the sound they wish to tune into from all the others.

One can only wonder for the man whose ears were closed and tongue was silenced – what was it like when Jesus touched and healed him?

Having been unable to hear, a whole new world of sound and speech is now open to him.

What was closed is now open. This is what happens when Jesus heals us. What was closed is open. So what is closed in us?

Sometimes we're definitely hearing but selectively listening. There are many jokes about males and females with the former being accused of selectively hearing the latter. Or the man who went home with his hearing completely restored by a new

Today's Readings



Isaiah 35:4-7
Psalm 145:7-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Next Sunday's Readings



Isaiah 50:5-9
Psalm 114:1-6, 8-9
James 2:14-18
Mark 8:27-35

(continued on back page)

device. One month later when the GP said how pleased his family must be with the restoration of hearing – his patient confessed that he hadn't told anyone, just listened to conversations and changed his last will and testament three times!

As the quantity of communication has increased – perhaps the quality has decreased. We increasingly tend to live in echo-chambers of communication, where we only interact with people who think like us and, in “social media” terms, we can shield out/mute/block/unfollow/unfriend those we disagree with.

We are resistant and our resistance closes us in on ourselves. We don't want a new world opened to us. Sometimes we are content to keep things just the way they are. It's easier that way as change hurts and we may feel that we have changed enough already.

Our Second Reading names it directly

as being judgemental and shutting our eyes and ears to one (usually the poor) whilst welcoming the rich. When we make distinctions among ourselves we close ourselves to the gift that each person is.

Being closed shows itself in stubbornness, addiction, fixations, anger, hostility, restlessness and complacency. We may shut in and shut out, but God is having none of it (First Reading). He opens what is closed and clears what is blocked.

What do we need to be healed? It may be physical of course, but for many it is healing from the hurts of life. The whole Pandora's box of distress, unhappiness, worries, anxieties and conflicts, needs His touch, and we need to be opened up as we are closed.

Healing from a feeling of distress or unhappiness. Healing from worry about the future. Healing from anxiety about a family member or friend. Healing because of an unresolved issue or conflict that's gnawing away inside.

To all this Jesus says “Be opened”. ■

– Tom Cox



Reflection

Imagine that you yourself are the one touched and healed by Jesus. What do you feel?



Lesson

Jesus makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.



Prayer

Lord of hearing and speech, put your fingers into my ears that I may hear your word. Place your hand upon my lips that I may proclaim the Good News I hear. Amen.



This Week (10-16 September)

- 10 Mon** St Nicolas of Tolentino
- 11 Tue** St Deiniol, bishop
- 12 Wed** The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 13 Thur** St John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor
- 14 Fri** THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
- 15 Sat** Our Lady of Sorrows
- 16 Sun** 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





St. Anthony's Parish, Belfast

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

3 Willowfield Crescent, BT6 8HP. Tel. 028 90458158. Mobile 07740603643.

Email: h.mccann@downandconnor.org, stanthony@downandconnor.org,

henrymccann@hotmail.com, **Website:** www.saintanthony.co.uk

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)



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time—Year B

SEEK YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Mark 7:31-37

1. *The healing of the deaf mute provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the importance of communication in our lives. The healing touch of Jesus brought the man from isolation into community. Who have been the people who touched you when you felt isolated and alone and helped you to come out of painful aloneness? For whom have you done this?*

2. *Deafness is symbolic of being unable to hear what is being said to us. What a difference when our ears are opened! Perhaps you can recall a time when your ears were opened and you heard in a new way that you were loved – by God or by another person.*

3. *Words are not the only form of communication. Actions can speak louder than words. Recall times when this was brought home to you.*

4. *Being able to say what is in you is the other side of communication. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have struggled to find words to express what is deepest in you – your faith, your values, your love. Then something changed and you found the words. What was it like to be able to express your deepest self?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jpb Byrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Anniversaries: Philomena (Phyllis) Bennett, Ann Tibodeau, Jim & Celia McNally, Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Evelyn Mills & Frankie Mills, Thomas & Isobel McGiffin.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 9th September

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Eamon Blaney & Carmel Blaney
Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy
Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 16th September

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 £628.21, Weekly Collection £39, Cathedral Fund £5, Shrines £74.58.

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. New boxes of envelopes are available in sacristy. If you would like a box please speak to Fr McCann.

Pope Francis in Ireland. The Irish Catholic and Columba books will present a collaborative souvenir coffee-table book of Pope Francis' visit to Ireland and the events of the World Meeting of Families, with photos and events from around the country. €24.99 plus p&p. For more information 003531 687 4096, sales@columba.ie or visit www.columbapbooks.com.

Parish Pastoral Council next meeting will take place on Wed 12th Sept at 7pm in SVP hall/John Paul II hall behind the church.

Annual Belfast Pioneer Mass will take place on Tuesday 18th September 2018 in St. Malachy's Church, Alfred St, Belfast at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments afterwards. Anyone wishing to be presented with emblems/ certificates please contact Pat 9262 9959, Ian 9061 6601, Josephine 9061 7116, Roisin 9064 6957.

Voice of Hope Concert at Saint Peter's Cathedral as All Lives Are Precious and their cross community celebration of Love Life and Happiness visits Saint Peter's on Friday, 14th September 2018 @ 7:30pm,

as we for the first time, invite our communities to mark World Suicide Prevention Day with us. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available from Saint Peter's Cathedral Office, Immaculata Youth Club and online via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/voice-of-hope-belfast-tickets-46646393619>. Proceeds of this event will provide support and services to young people from all sections of the community in North and West Belfast on Mental Health Awareness, Suicide Prevention and Wellbeing. Contact Ronan info@alpsni.org or 07801481013.

Pathways Adult Faith Development Programme at Drumalis - Enrol now for 2018-2020 intake. Pathways is a broad-based adult faith development course which explores spirituality, theology and prayer. Now in its thirteenth year, Pathways is geared towards those who want to reflect about life, faith and relationships with God and others. The course takes place in the beautiful surroundings of Drumalis in Larne. 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 further information and booking form, please contact Drumalis - 028 2827 2196/2827 6455 (during office hours, Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm), email maura@drumalis.co.uk or see the Drumalis website: <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

5th Diocesan Faith and Life Convention, in Our Lady and St Patrick's College, 120 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast BT5 7DL, on Saturday 29th September 2018. The Faith and Life Convention is a forum for people from across the diocese, and beyond, to gather together and to take part in a range of conversations about the meaning of faith and its relevance to every area of our lives. Keynote Address by Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga, SBD, from Honduras, Vatican spokesman to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, regarding developing-world debt. 27 Workshops, exhibition hall, capacity for 600 visitors from parishes all over the diocese. Full adult pass (including lunch) £20. Packed Lunch adult pass £10, and children under 16 go free. Booking available at www.faithandlifeconvention.org.

Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held in Dromantine Conference Centre, Newry on 5th -7th October 2018. For more information and / or booking visit www.marriageencounter.ie or call 028 7135 9612 or (087) 784 0408.

Bethany Bereavement Training Course will take place at our new venue, the Good Shepherd Centre, 511 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GS, starting on Thursday September 27th 2018. Support is offered on an individual basis in the home, to groups in drop-in centres, by phone calls, by helping at funeral liturgies and remembrance services. A full training course is offered over a 10 evening period. For more information contact Claire Dowds, 07557882183, email: bethanybereavementni@gmail.com

"Deep Listening" Retreat Day Drumalis, Larne - Saturday, 15 September 2018 "Deep Listening" is the third in "Meeting God Mindfully" - four themed retreat days with Maria Garvey at Drumalis in 2018, bringing together the practices of Christian Contemplative Prayer and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction. The day will run from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, 15 September and costs £60. For further information, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm). Details are also available on the Drumalis website - <http://www.drumalis.co.uk>

Youth Alpha. If you are aged 16-19 and have questions about faith, or just want to know more about Christianity, then you have the perfect opportunity to do so over a free dinner in the upcoming Youth Alpha course. Each evening is based around food, a short video and discussion with peers. The series will run for 10 weeks (September 30th - November 11th in St Brides hall and November 18th - December 9th in Saint Joseph's Parish Centre). The course runs every Sunday evening from 7pm until 9pm. Transport from non-host parishes will be provided. There is no charge for the course, simply sign up by emailing your interest to s.farrell@downandconnor.org or visit <https://alpha.org/alpha-youth-series/>