

# Parish Newsletter

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 23 September 2018  
Cycle B | Issue 43

## WHO IS THE GREATEST?

One of the differences between RC priests and Ministers of other denominations is that the former tend to be appointed to a parish rather than apply for it. I have a recurring nightmare where a parish group interviews me for some future parish asking "What's your vision for our parish?" In some way, it might be like trying to prove that you are the greatest.

They tell of one priest who was appointed Parish Priest and lightly told his mother that his official title was "Very Reverend" – his mother remarked "knowing you son – being barely reverent would be an achievement."

The debate the disciples entered into was one that they perhaps never intended to be overheard or confronted about. Who is the greatest? We will never know what criteria they used. Of

### Today's Readings



Wisdom 2:12,17-20  
Psalm 53:3-6,8  
James 3:16-4:3  
Mark 9:30-37

### Next Sunday's Readings



Numbers 11:25-29  
Psalm 18:8,10,12-14  
James 5:1-6  
Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

(continued on back page)



course, the obvious counter question was "Who is the worst?" Was the criteria on Spirituality? Praying the most? Ability to speak, or to relate to people?

We all have our own questions to fill in the blanks and they come from our own insecurities really.

We probably don't 'get' the shocking response of Jesus, when He puts a child before them. At the time of Jesus, the word in Hebrew and Aramaic for 'child' was the same as for a servant. Basically, a servant or child couldn't pay you back.

In antiquity, childhood was a time of terror. One-third of live births ended in death. Two-thirds of children died before the age of 16. Disease and

poor hygiene wiped out two-thirds of the child population. Even still you mightn't get it that children were denigrated as nearly useless at the time of Jesus. During famine, children were also last to be fed ... survival of the fittest ... survival of the strong ... and yes ... survival of the greatest. I won't even get into how boys were preferred to girls in the harsh culture of the time.

So for Jesus to tell them to become like little children – it's a slap in the face, an insult to their culture and values.

Our world has a mania for ranking and estimating and valuing – but it's quite possible that while we think everything has its price – that we may end up knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing. We need to make an end to our pointless games of dividing and ranking everything and realise that we share a common humanity – woman or man, child or adult – and walk together the narrow path in life that leads to God. ■

– Tom Cox

## Reflection

Notice how the disciples, for a second time, misunderstand what Jesus has said to them about his 'way'.

## Lesson

Authentic discipleship involves rejection, suffering, sacrifice and death.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to avoid strife, to respect others, to be gentle, sober and truthful. Amen.

## This Week (24-30 September)

- 24 Mon** Our Lady of Walsingham
- 25 Tue** St Finnbar, bishop
- 26 Wed** Ss Cosmas and Damian, martyrs
- 27 Thur** St Vincent de Paul, priest
- 28 Fri** St Lorenzo Ruiz and companions, martyrs
- 29 Sat** Ss Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels
- 30 Sun** 26th 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

**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—Year B

SEEKING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS  
 Mark 9:30-37

1. *Jesus uses the time they are travelling along the road to teach his disciples what it means to follow him. Think of the wisdom you have acquired about life, about faith, about what it means to be a Christian. Who have been your teachers? Remember them and give thanks for them.*
  2. *One of the lessons Jesus gives them is that there is a dying to be endured as we move to a fuller life. That was the road he would travel. It is also our journey, not only at the end of this earthly life, but also in small ways through life. When have you found that by dying in some way you came to a fuller life?*
  3. *Achievement, affirmation, recognition and status are attractive and enjoyable when they come our way. Yet we can be in trouble if, like the disciples, we become caught up in pursuit of them. Jesus tells them that true greatness lies in service of others. Who are the people whose support and assistance help you now? What has helped you to appreciate the value of loving service of others?*
- John Byrne OSA. Email jpbyrneosa@gmail.com

**WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES**  
**Recently Deceased:** Mena Lyons (mother of Fr Gabriel), Monica Nic Ghiolla Cathain (mother of Fr Darach)  
**Anniversaries:** Evelyn Mills & Frankie Mills, Jim & Kaathleen Laverty, Thomas & Isobel McGiffin, Kathleen Lambert (nee Magee), Kitty Gibney (Sun 23rd Sept at 11:30am)

### READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 23rd September  
**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford & Phyllis McGrillen  
 Morning Mass: Sarah Corscadden & Eileen Dunn

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**  
 Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty  
 Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 30th September  
**READERS:**

Vigil Mass: Maria Murphy & Ann Flanagan  
 Morning Mass: Loretta Watson & Kay Dunn

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**  
 Vigil Mass: Ann Wright  
 Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

**COLLECTIONS:** Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Autumn Voluntary £286.26, Weekly Collection £320.21, Monthly Stipend £5, Shrines £91.43.  
 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.

**80th Anniversary Committee** next meeting will take place on Tues 9th October at 7:30pm in SVP hall/John Paul II hall behind the church.

**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/>

**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](http://www.faithandlifeconvention.org).

**Doubleband Films Documentary - "Born in '21"** for BBC NI to mark the centenary of the creation of Northern Ireland in 1921. The film will tell the story of the state through the lives of ordinary people, born at the time of its foundation in 1921. Conversation will focus on their own families, their work, and how their lives changed over the decades. These personal stories will then be weaved through interviews with historians, who will talk about the key moments and events in the history of Northern Ireland, from its birth to the present day. So far we've met some fantastic characters but are still on the lookout for more individuals with a range of life experiences, from across the country and who were born in 1921. At this stage it's just a chat over a cup of tea for research purposes. This project will run well into 2019 and possibly beyond, but more information can be found on the poster in the porch. For more information contact Sharon Whittaker, Doubleband Films, 02890243331/07547535119, or email [swhittaker@doublebandfilms.com](mailto:swhittaker@doublebandfilms.com)

**Introduction to Theology of the Body.** This DVD and group discussion programme for adults will be held in Tobar Mhuire Monastery, Crossgar for 8 consecutive weeks beginning Thursday 11th October 2018 at 7.30pm, lasting 1 hour. For further enquiries contact [tohteam@yahoo.com](mailto:tohteam@yahoo.com)

**Catholic Young Adult Conference** at QUB Catholic Chaplaincy on Saturday October 20th. Brilliant talks and workshops on how to be a courageous Catholic in today's world. Speakers include Fr Andrew Black, Fr Conor McDonough and Maria Steen. Cost: £10 inc. lunch. For ages 18 -40. To book a place call 07753379110 or email [cyaconference16@gmail.com](mailto:cyaconference16@gmail.com)

**A Journey in Faith**. St Colmcille's Catholic Faith Community welcomes and invites you - if you need to get a deeper understanding of your Catholic Faith... • if you are seeking to return to celebrating your Faith... • if you would like to explore and enquire into the Catholic Faith with a view possibly of Baptism... • if you would like to explore and enquire into what it is Catholics believe... For every Christian the life of faith is a journey. A Journey in Faith is an opportunity to take the next step with others, where you may find example, encouragement and inspiration to help you along on your journey of faith exploration. The meetings will resume on Wednesday 3rd October 2018 at 7.15pm in St Colmcille's Parochial Hall, 191 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3JB. Please share this invitation with others. For enquiries or to register contact Noleen: Tel: 07879 498131/ 02890 654157 or email: [stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org](mailto:stcolmcilles@downandconnor.org)

**Cregagh Presbyterian Church PW** invite you to "An Evening of Music" featuring Ballyclare Male Choir performing both secular and sacred music, on Friday 26th October 2018 at 7:30pm. Tickets (incl Supper) £10. Proceeds to go to PW Funds (Mission). For tickets please contact Maggi 07887 395372 or 028 90293236 or you can pay at the door on the night. See Poster in church porch.

**The Introduction of the Permanent Diaconate** in the Diocese of Down and Connor. With the ordination of 8 men on Sunday 14th October in St Peter's Cathedral, PLEASE TAKE HOME WITH YOU a copy of the diocesan leaflet which explains what the permanent diaconate is. The candidates are: Joseph Baxter (Holy Family), Terence Butcher (Portstewart), Brendan Dowd, (Holy Family), Brett Lockhart (St Brigid's), James McAllister (Bangor), Gregory McGuigan (St Brigid's), Patrick McNeill (St Anne's), Kevin Webb (Derriaghy), Martin Whyte (St Malachy's). Keep them in your prayers.

**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.