

Parish Newsletter



22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 1 SEPTEMBER 2019
Cycle C | Issue 40

ULTERIOR MOTIVES

It would be nice to think that we could do things just out of the generosity of our hearts, with no self-interest involved. Yet that is rarely the case and it is good for us to be aware of this so that the self-interest does not get the upper hand.

Sometimes we can be taken aback to discover the element of self-interest within. Today's gospel story of the people seeking the best places at

a wedding feast brings to mind an occasion when I had officiated at a wedding. I had no connection with the couple and had decided I would excuse myself from the meal after the ceremony. But not only was I not being invited to take the place of honour, I was not even invited to attend – and I was inwardly furious. I immediately saw the irony in the situation, and the lesson it gave me. My priestly ministry was not as altruistic as I had thought

Today's Readings



Ecclesiasticus (Sir) 3:17-20, 28-29
Psalm 67:4-7, 10-11
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Next Sunday's Readings



Wisdom 9:13-18
Psalm 89:3-6, 12-14, 17
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

it was. I wanted some recognition and was not as selfless and generous as I thought I was.

It was a moment of truth for me and, on reflection, I saw the incident highlighted an aspect of being human. Grace builds on nature. Generally when we undertake something we do it because, in addition to the benefit others may get from our actions, we also get something out of it. Possibly it is an opportunity to use our talents and see them acknowledged, or we find that we can make a difference to another person, or that it gives us a good feeling about ourselves. All of this is natural, healthy and to be enjoyed. We are discovering something of the 'wonder of our being' (Ps 139).

In the gospel Jesus warns us about the dangers of ulterior motives when we do good. If we are focused too much on what we are getting from doing good

this can lead to disappointment and resentment when our expectations are not met. When the good deed is itself our reward, we will have a greater inner freedom. Positive feedback will be a bonus, but not essential to our satisfaction.

This is the kind of selfless love and compassion that Jesus showed to the people he met. He invites us to follow in his footsteps and to let our compassion for others be motivated by their need, and not the attraction of what we will get in return. ■

– John Byrne, OSA



Reflection

Think of people you know who give of themselves without looking for thanks.



Lesson

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.



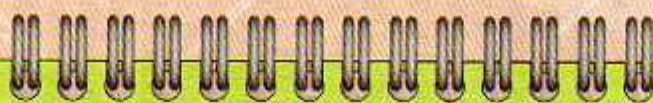
Prayer

Help us to follow your example, Lord Jesus, for you were among us not to be served but to serve, and to give your life for others.

RAISED BY OUR LOVE

We live in a world where self-promotion is at the heart of many superficial relationships. But ours is a New Covenant of love – Jesus refers to this in the Gospel. In this unique relationship we seek to encourage and raise each other higher. When we fail, as inevitably we do, He calls us to ask forgiveness of each other.

MARRIAGE MATTERS
(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)



This Week (2-8 September)

- 2 Mon** St William of Roskilde, bishop
- 3 Tue** St Gregory the Great, pope and doctor
- 4 Wed** St Magnus, martyr; St Cuthbert, bishop
- 5 Thur** St Teresa of Calcutta, religious
- 6 Fri** St Bega, abbess
- 7 Sat** St Regina, martyr
- 8 Sun** 23RD 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

PN40C

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)



22nd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

SEEKING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Luke 14:1, 7-14

1. *The parable brings out two contrasting experiences, but each in its own way can be a moment of grace, a moment of truth, a moment of growth. You may be able to recall such experiences in your life. In the first (verses 8, 9) we discover that we had claimed a place that is too high for us; we are not as selfless, generous or compassionate as we thought we were. In the second (v. 10), others point out a goodness in ourselves that we may not have acknowledged to ourselves. How have you grown through such experiences?*

2. *In verses 12-14, Jesus warns us against the danger of ulterior motives in doing good. We can do good things partly because of the benefit we will get from what we do. That is natural but can lead to disappointment and resentment when our expectations are not met. When the good deed in itself is our reward we have a greater freedom. Praise will be a bonus, but is not necessary. What does your life experience tell you about this?*

John Byrne OSA. Email jbyrneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Brother Joseph Skehan OCSO, Fenton Lyons (father of Fr Gabriel), Eilish O'Brien (mother of Fr Francis)

Anniversaries: Mick Gibney, Thomas & Isobel McGiffin, Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Kathleen Laverty.

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 1st Sept

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anne Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Stephen Murphy

Morning Mass: James Henderson

Sun 8th Sept

READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Clodagh Doyle

Morning Mass: Martina McCrory & Margaret Woods

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Frank Doherty

Morning Mass: Séamus Monaghan



COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly collection £477.02, Shrines £108.96

Food Bank. It is suggested that since a lot of the recipients are of Asian extraction, that less pasta should be donated and more rice donated.

Farewell to Fr Krzysztof Sanda SChr. Fr Krzysztof will be saying his last masses at St Anthony's this Sunday 1st September. The Polish Community invite Parishioners from St Anthony's to this Mass where there will be presentations to Fr Krzysztof followed by refreshments in Willowfield COI Parish Centre opposite. All are welcome.

National Grandparents Pilgrimage. Sunday 8th September 2019, Our Lady of Knock Shrine, Knock, Co Mayo. Chief Celebrants: Bishop Kevin Doran—Bishop of Elphin and Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo—Apostolic Nuncio. Choir & Musicians: Combined Choirs of Knock Parish, Reflection by: Catherine Wiley—Founder of the CGA, Special Guests: Dana, sings 'Our Lady of Knock', Cathal Gavin, sings 'Voice of an Angel', Children's Prayer Appeal. 2.30pm—Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick with Music and Song. 3.00pm—Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Rosary. For further information visit: info@catholicgrandparentsassociation.com. www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Faith and Life Convention. Online bookings for this year's Faith and Life Convention are now open. We hope that you will be able to us on Saturday 28th September 2019. This year our theme for the convention is Faith in a Better World and our Keynote Speaker will be Michel Camdessus. Michel is the former director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a member of the Pontifical Council on Justice and Peace. We look forward to welcoming Michel and his wife Brigitte to Belfast. Our keynote speech will be followed by a panel discussion

where together we can reflect on the variety of issues that we face in society today. Dr Nicola Brady, from the Irish Council of Churches will moderate our panel and we can look forward to responses from Dymna Mallon (Laity Co-ordinator for SMA), Prof Thomas Bremer, (University of Münster, Germany) and Mrs Eileen Gallagher (Clogher Diocese and Northern Ireland Catholic Council on Social Affairs). The highlight of the day for many people is the variety of workshops on offer and this year we have an impressive line-up of local and international speakers. Application forms can be found in the Sacristy, or you can book on www.faithandlifeconvention.org

Silent Protest against proposed Abortion Legislation. NI Voiceless - is not linked to any party or particular faith and aims to put pressure on politicians to restore Stormont and halt abortion legislation. It will hold a protest on the steps of Stormont on Friday, 6th September at 7pm. Protesters have been asked to wear black or dark colours and carry a mobile or "other electric light". See poster in the Porch.

March For Their Lives: Protection of the Unborn. On Saturday 7th September, Mass will be celebrated at 1.00pm in St Patrick's Church, Donegal Street, Belfast followed by a 'March for their Lives' at 2pm in Custom House Square. After the 'March for their Lives', Precious Life will be launching 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting - beginning on Sunday 8th September (Our Lady's Birthday) and ending on Thursday 17th October for the Protection of the Unborn.

Silent Retreat. Theme: "If you but knew the gift of God...", preached by Fr. Kilian Byrne in Dromantine Retreat Centre, Newry, Co. Down, October 14th to 20th. Cost: £410stg full board. Contact: Helen : 00353 86 1678027/ hellywilliams@gmail.com, www.foyerofcharity.ie. A privileged time to come away from noise and distractions, and listen to the Spirit of God. - Who is Love. Silence, prayer, teachings & liturgy of the Church

"Get Together", a community of bereaved families, invites you to our "From Inside Out" conference on Thursday, 19th Sep 2019, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Riddell Hall, Belfast. The most frequently voiced fear by those wanting to support bereaved children is "What if I say the wrong thing?" Want to know more about helping families find community in the midst of trauma and grief? Come to the 'From Inside Out' Conference on 19-9-19 to learn directly from bereaved children and families what they need: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/from-inside-out-conference> or contact maria.mcintee@cruse.org.uk or 02890792419 for more information. Cost-£99 full day £50 half day

Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living. Drumalis, Larne - commencing Monday, 16 September from 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm. Taking place at Drumalis over 30 evenings from September 2019 - May 2020, this new programme in association with the Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Glasgow and led by a team of trained Spiritual Directors, is a journey for those who want a closer relationship with God, who struggle with prayer or perhaps even struggle with God or who seek to make choices which are in tune with God's desires. This course is open to all, no previous experience necessary. Sessions include team input, guided experiences of prayer, time for quiet personal prayer and opportunities for listening and sharing. For further information, please contact 028 28276455/28272196 during office hours (Mon-Fri, 9 am - 5 pm) or email drumalis@btconnect.com

Annual Pioneer Mass. The Belfast Pioneer Region are holding their Annual Mass on Wednesday 18th September 2019 in St Agnes' Church, 141 Andersonstown Rd. Belfast 11 beginning at 7pm. If anyone wishes to be presented with gold, silver or other Pioneer emblems /certificates, please contact Pat 9262 9959, Roisin 9064 6957, Josephine 9061 7116 or Mary 9442 3956 as soon as possible. All Pioneers and friends are welcome. Light refreshments afterwards.

Step 4 Step for Mary's Meals. Many thanks to all who supported Suzanne & Dessie Hopkins and Margaret Sheppard on the Annual Walking Fundraiser for Mary's Meals. They raised £800 in sponsorships as well as other Bucket Collections still to be counted.

Theology of the Body - Down and Connor. Invitation to an introduction to Pope John Paul II catechises on the Theology of the Body starting on Wednesday, 4 September 2019 running for 7 sessions until Wednesday, 16 October 2019. Venue: St Patrick's Church, Downpatrick BT30 6DN - in the Crypt of the Church "Patrick's Place". Once in the carpark travel to the right around the side of St Patrick's Church. Light refreshments provided. Time: 8.10pm - 9.30pm - Over 18s - Contact Maureen T:077 1928 4747 or Geraldine T: 077 1928 4738 or Email: tobtteam@yahoo.com for more information.

The West Belfast Historical Society is meeting on Friday the 13th of September at 7.30pm in St. Michael's Parish Centre on Finaghy Road North (Access via Church Gateway on Finaghy Road North, just before the garage opposite the Church at junction with Andersonstown Road). The September talk is entitled "The Life And Times Of Fr. Gerry Reynolds CSSR. The guest speaker will be "Dr Gladys Ganiel". All are Welcome to Attend and Refreshments will be provided

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.