

Parish Newsletter

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 15 SEPTEMBER 2019
Cycle C | Issue 42

NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST

I don't know about you, but at times my life seems to consist of constant searching – usually for keys. Next to multiple passwords to remember for countless things, they are the bane of my life. So I invested in a key finder: you tag the precious object and press a colour coded remote control and the tag (if in range) responds. Perfect! Except a friend borrowed it on a trial and has lost the remote control.

But they are only objects ... the living are infinitely more precious. In today's Gospel we have a sheep that got lost, a coin that got mislaid and a son that goes off plan! In many ways the middle parable gets ... well, 'lost' in the retelling. The sheep have a marvellous shepherd. Somehow the bleat of a single sheep drowns out the milling flock – because the shepherd has an attentive ear and heart. The son has a wonderful father who keeps an open

Today's Readings



Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

Next Sunday's Readings



Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 112:1-2, 4-8
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13

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door and an open eye for the wanderer to return. The son didn't really know who his father was or how his father felt about him until he returned home. Sometimes in our wandering, we aren't really that lost – we're trying to discover who God is and who we are. Until you find out the answer to those two questions, there is nothing to celebrate. Grabbing, acquiring, using money to buy people and connections, and trying to be with the 'right' people all the times – doesn't work.

But back to the lost coin. One drachma isn't much from an outsider's point of view, but it depends on your perspective. To the woman it was priceless. Some have said that it may have been the type of coin that young women who were engaged wore stitched on their head-dress to show their dowry. Not only was a coin in peril – her very future was under threat from that missing piece. In many ways, the parable of the lost coin is more

touching than that of the Prodigal. It gives us an appealing image of a God who actively searches out the lost. What was missing may not have been that valuable – but it was missed as well as missing and was sought.

It does beg the question of us – what is our attitude towards the lost? We speak blithely of the 'marginalised', but who is cut off from who exactly. Are the wanderers of our age leading us into strange places that in our safe, confined way of thought we had not even dreamt of. Maybe they invite us to consider all those 'lost' areas of our own lives and to respond with tenderness to all.

I have seen this parable applied recently to the situation of 'illegals' seeking entry to the United States. I'm not sure Jesus had that in mind as he spoke these words in first century Palestine – that somehow the 'dishonest' tag would be applied to such people!

– Tom Cox



Reflection

When have you been lost and then found by God?



Lesson

In God's kingdom sinners and the righteous sit down at one table, where all are equal.



Prayer

Lord, create a pure heart in us and give us a steadfast spirit so that we may serve you with sincerity and constancy.



This Week (16-22 September)

- 16 Mon** Ss Cornelius and Cyprian, bishops & martyrs
- 17 Tue** St Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor
- 18 Wed** St Joseph of Cupertino, religious
- 19 Thur** St Januarius, bishop and martyr
- 20 Fri** Ss Andrew Kim Taegon & companions
- 21 Sat** ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
- 22 Sun** 25TH 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

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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

Luke 14:25-33

1. There are three figures in the story of the Prodigal Son. The father is a symbol of an unconditional love. Perhaps you can recall someone showing love to you in a way that showed great forgiveness and acceptance. Have there been times when you have also loved in this way?

2. You may be able to identify with the younger son at different stages of his journey. Be sure to follow it to the point where it becomes a good news story for you – when you 'came to yourself.' Where and when have you experienced a homecoming after a time of exile and alienation.

3. Do not neglect the older son. In contrast to his father he was very judgemental and resentful towards his younger brother. Perhaps you have experienced these attitudes in others towards you, or in yourself towards others. What were those experiences like for you? What did they teach you?

John Byrne OSA. Email jpbryneosa@gmail.com

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Fenton Lyons (father of Fr Gabriel), Eilish O'Brien (mother of Fr Francis), Fr Sammy Kerr

Anniversaries: Vincent Crilly, Brenda Gunn, Kathleen Laverty, Fr Dan Meenagh, Ann McGeeny, Dennis Carr, Kitty Gibney (Sun 22nd Sept at 11:30am), James Curran (Sun 29th at 11:30am)

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sun 15th Sept

READERS:

Vigil Mass: Anthony Clifford

Morning Mass: Suzanne Hopkins & Kathryn Curran

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Sean Rafferty

Morning Mass: Louis Corscadden

Sun 22nd Sept

READERS:

Easter Vigil Mass: Carmel Blaney

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard & Eileen Dunn

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Vigil Mass: Anne Wright

Morning Mass: Margaret Sheppard

COLLECTIONS: Many thanks for your contribution to last week's collections: Weekly Collection £537.09, Shrines £44.08

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. 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. 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 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

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

Extraordinary Mission Month (EMM) October 2019 Theme - "Baptised and Sent" - Hold the Dates! This October through an Extraordinary Mission Month declared by Pope Francis, the Diocese invites us to embrace the vision of a Missionary Church by celebrating the contribution of our Diocese to the missions abroad. To mark EMM2019 we will be holding 3 major events in October –

• Friday 11 October 4.30pm - 7.30pm Missionary Young People and Children's Day - Braid Parish to include climbing Slemish, Prayer Service and BBQ (bus leaving from QUB Chaplaincy at 3.00pm)

• Saturday 19 October 9.30am - 4.30pm A Conference and Celebration of D&C Missionaries Abroad and at Home in St Mary's University College, Falls Rd, Belfast

• Sunday 20 October - 3.00pm Mission Sunday Mass - Together We Are Mission - St Patrick's Church, Chapel Hill, Lisburn.

Throughout the coming year, we plan to acknowledge and celebrate the work of the many hundreds of Missionaries who left their homes and parishes to engage in Missionary endeavour around the world. If you have a relative or friend who is currently a Missionary abroad or during their lifetime has served as a Missionary, we would really appreciate if you would please give their details including Name, Religious Order, Dates etc. to your Parish Office or email [missions@downandconnor.org] before 23rd September 2019.

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.

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: tbteam@yahoo.com for more information.

SMA Retreat & Conference Centre, Dromantine, Newry, Days of Prayer / Workshops, 9.30am – 5.00pm (with lunch):

Sat. 28th Sept. 'Lectio Divina' led by Fr. Joseph Ralph OP - £25/€30

Sat. 19th Oct. 'The Green Platform' led by Mr Declan Coyle - £45/€50

Sat. 9th Nov. 'Finding God in the Mess' Fr. B. Mc Manus SJ & Jim Deeds £30/€35

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, commencing Wednesday 25th September, in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Malone Rd., Belfast. All welcome. For details please contact Phil Tel: 028 90 207645 or Marie Tel: 07896119669

Centering Prayer Weekend Meditation Silent Retreat, 27th-29th September, Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar. For registration and further details e-mail: contemplativeoutreachireland@gmail.com or Tel. Kathleen 0035387 6017709. The group meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday monthly, 7.30pm-9pm in Tobar Mhuire. Contact Kevin 07747889747, or e-mail: cassidys9@hotmail.com

Guide Dogs NI Volunteers: Can you help someone with sight loss in your local community? In your local area there are people with a visual impairment who really need your support to get out and about, try new things and engage again with their local community. Guide Dogs NI are recruiting volunteers to help improve the confidence and independence of people with a visual impairment. The My Guide service matches blind and partially sighted people with a trained volunteer to spend a few hours a week, to get out and about, trying new things and getting involved again in the local community. If you have a few hours to spare and really want to make a massive difference to someone living with sight loss in your local area then become a My Guide volunteer. For more information contact: Paula.mclarnon@guidedogs.org.uk or phone 07766 526873

September on Lough Derg: Standard One Day Retreats in September: Sat 21, Sun 22 & Sun 29. Special Living with Suicide Day Retreat, Sat 28 September. Advance booking is essential for any of these dates. Tel 071 9861518 or email info@loughderg.org

Evangelium Course. The last three meetings of the Course on the Creed which began after Easter are Thurs 3rd, 10th & 17th October 7pm-8.30pm.

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.