



MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR

Even in the best of parishes people can have disputes. Our Gospel today contains some very practical suggestions about resolving conflicts. At the time Matthew was writing, local Church communities would have numbered no more than about fifty people. They would be known to one another. Matthew presents the advice of Jesus for dealing with people whose behaviour disrupted

and harmed the community. Note the steps suggested. These are simple directions but many of us do otherwise. We may dodge difficult but necessary confrontations. We talk about the faults of others to everyone but the individual who offends us. We go over the head of someone who displeases us and make complaints. Jesus suggests that for adult persons, the first step should be to sort things out directly with the person concerned. Perhaps you have experienced the negative fallout when you have gone behind someone's back with a complaint, rather than speaking to him or her face-to-face?

Next Sunday's Readings

Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

Psalms 102:1-4, 9-12

Romans 14:7-9

Matthew 18:21-35



Jesus recognises that there are limits to what we can do in resolving conflicts. Today we pray in the psalm: 'O that today you would listen to his voice! harden not your hearts.' People may harden their hearts in relation to one another as well as to God. We may reach out, but if the other person does not respond the matter is out of our control. Let such a one be to you as a 'pagan and a tax collector' suggests having nothing more to do with that person. But that is not the last word because Gentiles and tax collectors were precisely the kind of people to whom Jesus reached out. So, while for the moment we may have nothing more to do with a person who has hurt us, we leave the door open for the future.

This Gospel passage needs to be read in conjunction with a later passage where Jesus tells Peter he has to be ready

to forgive, not just seven times, but seventy times seven (Mt 18:21-22). While we do have the power to exclude people, our ultimate aim, as followers of Jesus, is to be open to all and to encourage the inclusion of people in our networks, rather than their exclusion. A popular hymn starts 'Let us build a house where all can dwell'.

That is the aim of our Sunday gatherings and each of us can help to create an atmosphere in which all can feel welcomed and at home. In the Mass the priest prays 'that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God'. Every member of the congregation has a part to play in creating the atmosphere in the body of the Church. What part do you play? ■

– John Byrne, OSA



Reflection

Where have you found the most welcoming atmosphere in a church? What was special there?



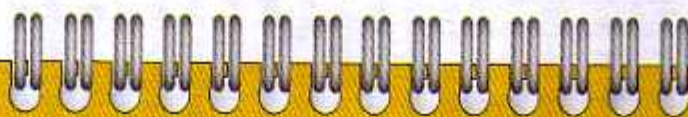
Lesson

Love is the fulfilling of the law
(Rom 13:10).



Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of
your peace.



This Week (7–13 September)

- 7 M** St Cloud, priest
- 8 T** THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- 9 W** St Ciaran, abbot
- 10 T** St Nicolas of Tolentino, monk
- 11 F** St Deiniol, bishop
- 12 S** The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 13 S** 24TH 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)

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

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

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

PUBLIC MASS TIMES IN THE COVID-19 ERA

(will be under assessment and review)

Saturday Evening at 6.30pm. (English Parish Mass)

Sunday Morning (in Polish): 9am, & 7pm. (English Parish Mass): 11.30am

Weekdays: Tues & Thurs at 9.30am. Fri at 7.00pm. **All Public English Masses on Facebook.**

Polish Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs 7pm

Private Mass (on Facebook Mon 9:30am) Confessions: By Arrangement. Baptisms: By Appointment



23rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

If two of you agree ... about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.

Pandemic, racial injustice, trafficking of humans, global warming, homelessness ... Lord, what can we do?

"If two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."

Christ, Lord of love, let us not think twice; let us trust in your words. Let us all come together and pray as one.

Anne Osdieck

WE REMEMBER OUR DECEASED LOVED-ONES

Recently Deceased: Bill Murray (brother of Fr Michael), Fr Stephen Rooney, Teresa Close, Theresa Schulz-Baumgarth, Stacy Shinn

Anniversaries: Vincent Crilly, Phil Green, Brenda Gunn, Kathleen & Jim Laverty, John & Brigid Rooney, Kitty Gibney (Sun 20th Sep at 11:30am), Frances Matthews (Sun 27th Sep at 11:30am).

Any further inclusions for Anniversaries in the parish Bulletin can be made via 07740 603643 or stanthonys@downandconnor.org

COLLECTIONS: New boxes of envelopes are available. Many thanks for your generosity to last weekend's collections: Weekly Collection £386.15, Shrines £79.11, DONATE £100

IN THE MEANTIME the diocese has set up a DONATE button for each parish, where you may wish to donate using a credit/debit card. See link at www.saintanthony.co.uk

Use of Standing Orders for Collections The diocese has given information for parishioners to use Standing Orders for Monthly Stipend, Weekly Collections and Diocesan and Non-Diocesan collections. If this interests you then contact Fr Henry 07740 603643

Diocesan Masses and Services A list of webcams can be found on our Diocesan Website: www.downandconnor.org and click on Parish Webcams in the menu, or on **Parish of St Anthony, Belfast Facebook** page for Live broadcasting of Mass.

Volunteers In order that the church can be opened, a list of volunteers are needed to act as stewards and to help clean after each mass, otherwise the church cannot be opened for public mass. A number of volunteers have agreed to be involved in the support of opening. If anyone else is interested, please contact Fr McCann at h.mccann@downandconnor.org

Times of Masses at St Anthony's Church: The public Mass times for Weekend and Weekday are: **English: Sat vigil 6:30pm, Sun 11:30am, Tues & Thurs 9:30am, Friday 7pm (Facebook Live) Polish: Sun 9am & 7pm, Tues & Thurs 7pm.**

Mon Mass in English at 9:30am will still be celebrated in private (also broadcast on Facebook).

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment only and socially distanced within the Church building. Please contact Fr McCann 07740 603643 if needed.

Some General Points of Guidance for attending Masses in the Church: (Summarised)

Before leaving the house please consider:

- 1) Are you unwell? Do not come to Mass if you are displaying one or more symptoms of Coronavirus Covid-19, i.e. a new persistent cough, or a temperature, or loss of you sense of taste or smell
- 2) Are you able to attend Mass on the weekday instead? The obligation to

attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is still suspended. We would encourage those people who are available to attend Mass during the weekday to join with us on the Facebook Page and leave space for those who can only come to a public Mass at the weekend.

3) People will be admitted to the church on a first come first served basis. There are 68 spaces for family, couple or single parishioner. Once the church is full we will close the doors. 4) In accordance with PHA and Diocesan Guidelines, the wearing of face-coverings is greatly encouraged. 5) The toilets will only be available in an emergency basis. 6) Please follow the guidance of the Stewards. 7) Please remain seated throughout the service. 8) Use the hand gel sanitiser and guide you to where you will be seated. There are other foot-powered alcohol hand gel dispensers available throughout the church, of which we advise you to make ample use. Place hand under nozzle and depress the foot pedal.

Keeping Safe during Mass. In line with PHA guidelines and the NI Executive the Diocese has recommended that you should use face coverings in particular, in enclosed spaces. Therefore we advise wearing masks in the church while attending Mass.

Protecting All We would respectfully ask that if you have attended Mass at the Church and have been diagnosed as having Covid-19 afterwards, could you please advise the date and time of your attendance to the Parish Office to allow safety protocols to be instigated to protect our community. Thank you for your understanding.

Test Trace Protect - A Step-by-Step Guide (Copies in the porch)

1. Spot the Symptoms	4. Get Tested	7. PHA Informs your contacts
2. Request a Test now	5. Get Results	8. Close Contacts asked to isolate
3. Isolate	6. Provide Details - if positive	9. Household of Close Contacts - instructed if symptoms occur, to start at step one.

StopCOVIDNI App. Download the app on: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-stopcovid-niproximity-app>

Grandparents National Pilgrimage 2020. taking place virtually at 3pm, Sunday 13th September at Knock Basilica. Please join us online at www.knockshrine.ie/watch.

Season of Creation. During the Season of Creation each year, Christians around the world unite to renew our love for each other and the home we share. We cannot but think of the threats and challenges that exist now for all humanity, not least our brothers and sisters living in the communities where Trócaire works. People who have done the least to cause climate change, are the ones to experience its harshest impacts, as drought and extreme weather disrupt their ability to grow food and tend their land.

This year's theme for Season of Creation is "Cultivating Hope" as we focus on building a better future for all humanity and for our common home. Resources for parish groups who would like to take action locally and globally during the Season of Creation can be found at the following links; (1) <https://www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/laudato-si> (2) <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/2020/07/15/season-of-creation-2020/>

Growth in Prayer & Reflective Living course After the success of last year's event, this course is being offered via Zoom (online) initially and eventually, in-house Drumalis when it re-opens. The course is for one year and starts 14th of September 2020. For more detail please contact: 028 282 76455/72196 during office hours 9am-5pm or email maura@drumalis.co.uk

Anam Cara Belfast, Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 9th September at 7:20pm in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Belfast, BT8 7XP. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.* (subject to change in accordance with government guidelines)*

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.