

HOLY FAMILY PARISH



06 March 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sundays: Cycle C

Psalter Week 4

A NEW CREATION

The parable of the prodigal son is so familiar to us, and when stories are familiar they can lose their meaning. But let us look a little closer at the context of the story. Jesus told this parable in response to some comments and complaints by the Pharisees and the scribes: 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.' What would these detractors have made of the story, flying as it did in the face of their traditional morality?

What about the so-called sinners? The 'tax collectors and sinners' were already at ease in the company of Jesus; they were seeking him out to hear what he had to say, and he in turn was welcoming them. How this parable must have spoken to them! It wouldn't have been much of a stretch for them to compare the generous welcome and forgiveness of the father in the story to the treatment they were already receiving from Jesus.

One sentence strikes me from today's second reading: 'For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation'. The 'sinners' with whom Jesus associated were made new by his presence, just as the son in the parable was surely a changed man after his reunion with his merciful father. He was 'dead and has come to life'.

This familiar parable is not just about how forgiving and merciful God is. It is about how his mercy brings us to new life. If we, sinners, return to him and let him welcome us back, we are new creations.

Triona Doherty



PRIESTS OF OUR PARISH

PARISH OFFICE: (028) 90743119 email: holyfamily@downandconnor.org

(Mon - Thurs 8.30am - 2pm, Fri 9am - 1.45pm)

Administrator: Very Rev. Paul Strain Holy Family Presbytery, 226 Limestone Road (028) 90743119

Curate: Fr. Paul Morely Holy Family Presbytery, 226 Limestone Road (028) 90743119

Priest in Residence: Canon Brendan Murray (028) 90205041

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER: 07778996031

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.HOLY-FAMILYPARISH.COM



REST IN PEACE

WE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY:

Jimmy McGuinness

FOR THOSE WHOSE MONTHS MIND OCCURS AT THIS TIME:

Seamus Malone; Eileen Gill

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AT THIS TIME:

James Cromie; Catherine Comerford; Rita McQuillan; Eamon Fitzpatrick;

Robert McCaughey; Andrea Browne (1st); Kathleen Susan O'Neill (1st); Mary Bradley Verhoeven;

Gerardine Hinds; Rosie, Barney, John & Bernard Thompson; Margaret Kane; Elizabeth & James Blake; Harry McNulty; Frank Shannon; Dan Quigley; Bill Reynolds; Lily & Frank Rafferty; Tommy & Paddy O'Kane; Fr. Michael

Healy SSC; PJ Healy; John & Mamie McConnell; Enrique Benasa

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.

Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. **Laudato Si', 246**

TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World

EARLY MORNING LENTEN MASS

In Holy Family Church at 7.30am, Monday - Friday. For those who can, it's not too late to start.

BRING US HOME - A LENTEN REFLECTION

Thurs 10th March, 7.30pm - 9.30pm in Drumalis. 28272196 / emmausireland@emmausproductions.com.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS

Congratulations to the p3 children who made their First Confession in Holy Family Church this past week, and we pray for the children who will be receiving the sacrament in St Therese Church on 15th March. We also remember, and pray for, the p7 children of our Parish who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on 10th March. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them, their parents and teachers.

PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

Adoration in St Therese Church will finish before the Mass of The Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (7pm) and resume after 10am Mass on Easter Monday. Adoration in Holy Family Church on Easter Monday as usual. **NEW ADORERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

PARISH BULLETIN

We are pleased to announce that, from next month, we will be using the Redemptorist publication *Sunday Message*, instead of our current distribution of a separate bulletin and missalette. Sunday Message includes the Sunday readings and gospel, as well as some prayers of the Mass, and reflections for the week ahead. The bulletin will be printed on the reverse. This is a chance to renew and refresh our bulletin, and we invite you to contact the Parish Office, if there is anything you would like to see included.

BAPTISMS

Welcome, to Holy Family Parish, those babies recently baptised:- **Olivia Kate McCart; Jude O'Kane; Chloe Josephine Shevlin & Ciaran Edward Shevlin.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The collection for Sunday 28th February amounted to £3725.59. Many thanks to those who contributed.

HOLY FAMILY PARISH – CONTRIBUTING BY DIRECT DEBIT, GIFT-AID AND ENVELOPES

Some parishioners have a variety of commitments which preclude them from attending Mass in the parish every weekend. However, they ensure continuity of financial support for the parish by paying their contributions by direct debit. Would this means of payment suit you? If you are a tax-payer, then your contributions to the parish are eligible for gift-aid. You can increase every £1 by 25 pence at no cost to yourself by making a one-off gift aid declaration and sending it to the parish office. So where possible, please put every penny in a regular, numbered parish collection envelope when contributing to our parish collections. The Parish can only claim a maximum of £2,500 per annum as gift-aid on the generous “loose plate” portion of collections in our churches every weekend. It is estimated that the parish is losing the opportunity to claim an additional £10,000 per annum in gift-aid because the repayments on “loose plate” are “capped” at £2,500. Please make your giving as tax-efficient as possible. Make our parish envelope system work for you and your household. Boxes of envelopes will be delivered in the next few weeks. Please contact the Parish Office now if you wish to amend, before delivery starts, the arrangements for envelopes for your household – whether to increase or decrease the order for the household. Contact the Parish Office in person about any of these matters /call 90743119 /or email holyfamily@downandconnor.org, or speak to Fr Paul Strain.

THANKS FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Written thanks from Regional President Aidan Crawford, for Holy Family’s “humbling and generous donation” of £5750, in support of Syrian refugees.



FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

The Developing World Group will have a Fair Trade stall after all Holy Family Church Masses this weekend, 05th and 06th March, in the Gathering Space.

REMINDERS

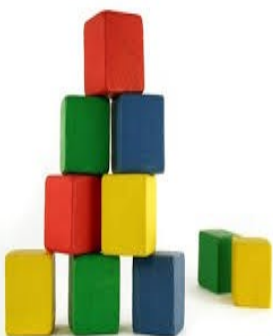
Still seeking **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** and **Ministers of the Word**. Contact Parish Office. **Holy Family Youth Choir** practice for Easter every Sunday afternoon at 4pm. New members welcome (children p3 and above), as well as a guitarist. Contact Mark Mooney through the Parish Office.

IRISH COUNCIL OF CHURCHES ARE SEEKING A GENERAL

Salary scale £33,287 - £41,586. For application packs www.irishchurches.org or email info@irishchurches.org. Closing date for applications Monday 21st March at 12 noon. Interviews 14th April.

ST GEORGE’S SINGERS - 20TH CENTURY CHORAL AND ORGAN MUSIC

Friday 01st April at 7.30pm in St George’s Church, High Street. Tickets £15. www.eventbrite.co.uk.



HOLY FAMILY PARISH 100 CLUB BUILDING FUND WEEK 44

£200 - Mr Hughes, Cavehill Road

£200 - Miss P McGarrity, Windermere Gardens

£200 - Mrs Quinn, Firmount

Promoter’s Prize - Tara Cullinan

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

HOLY YEAR OF MERCY IN LOUGH DERG

The Holy Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Basilica will be opened by the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown, on Sunday 01st May, the first of this year's one day retreats. For details of all retreats, events and the 3 day pilgrimage, visit www.loughderg.org.



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Sunday April 24th. Bus leaving St Bernard's car park at 6.30am. Cost £12 return. Packed lunch recommended. Contact 07972103130 to book a place.

ONE DAY YOUNG ADULTS CONFERENCE (AGE 18-40)

Saturday 12th March in QUB Catholic Chaplaincy, Elmwood Ave. Registration at 9am, conference 10am to 5pm. Talks, workshops, Mass, Adoration and Confession. Cost £10, includes lunch and refreshments. Contact 07753379110 or cyaconference16@gmail.com.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH - COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

The Church which "goes forth" is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelising community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (1 Jn 4:19) and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads, and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES IN THE COMING WEEK

HOLY FAMILY

Mon 07th (9.15am) **Robert McCaughey**
Tues 08th (9.15am) **Andrea Browne (1st)**
Sat 12th (6.30pm) **Joseph Craig**
Sun 13th (10am) **Dominic Blackham**
Sun 13th (12 noon) **Roisin Savage**

ST THERESE

Tues 08th (10am) **Kathleen Susan O'Neill (1st)**
Sat 12th (6pm) **Joe & Chrissie Sloan**
Sun 13th (12 noon) **Mary Bradley (MM)**

MASS FOR IRELAND

St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford on Saturday 19th March, Feast day of St. Joseph, with prayers for wellbeing of families, and protection of human life. Rosary at 2.30 pm, Mass at 3pm, Holy Hour 4pm. Bus leaving Belfast at 9 am, tickets £10 return. Orla 07545 452362 / info@anteaghlachnaofa.ie. / www.anteaghlachnaofa.ie

LATIN MASS

Mass in the Extraordinary Form next Sunday 13th March at 6pm in St Therese Church.

MASS TIMES IN HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Holy Family Church (all Masses available on webcam via www.holy-familyparish.com)

Mon-Fri: 9.15am Sat Vigil: 6.30pm Sun: 10am & 12 noon
Confessions: Sat 5.45pm - 6.15pm

Diocesan Youth Mass 3rd Sunday of every month at 5 pm

Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist: Mon 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Therese of Lisieux Church

Mon-Sat: 10.00am Sat Vigil: 6.00pm Sun: 10.30am & 12 noon
Confessions: Sat 10.30am - 11.00am and 5.15pm - 5.45pm

Holy Mass in the Extraordinary Form 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm and 2nd Sunday of the month at 6pm

Perpetual Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist: Sun 1.00pm - Sat 5.45pm, continuously