



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th February 2023, Year A, Psalter Week 3

Parish Priest: Fr Edward O'Donnell **Tel:** 028 9066 5409

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus Eccles 15:15-20
He never commanded anyone to be godless.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2.4-5.17-18.33-34
R/. They are happy who follow God's law!

Second Reading: Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1Cor 2:9-10
God predestined wisdom to be for our glory before the ages began.

Gospel: Gospel according to Matthew Mt 5:17-37
You have learnt how it was said to your ancestors; but I say this to you.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Susan McCrory, Gerard McCormick, Gerard Davey, Rev Cyril Murphy and Fr John Craven who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Maureen McGauran, William Burney, Aidan Gallagher, Daniel MacRandal, Jim and Anne Aiken, Naoise Moriarty, Jimmy Logan, Michael Walls, Archie McFerran, Donal Crawley, Brian Mullally, James Murphy, Brigid Heagney, Thomas and Mary Heagney, Peter Carty, Canon Patrick McAlister, Fr Hugh Crossin, William Ramsey, John Farrell, Raymond Eastwood, Anselm Kelleghan, William and Teresa Glover

May they rest in peace

The Liturgy

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 6.00 pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.30 am
12.00 noon

Weekday Mass

Monday: 7.00 pm
Tuesday: 9.30 am
Wednesday: 9.30 am
Thursday: 9.30 am
Friday: 7.00 pm
Saturday: 12 noon



Confession

Monday: 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Friday: 6.30 pm – 7.00 pm

Saturday: 12.30 pm – 1.00 pm &
5.30 pm – 6:00 pm

Baptisms

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month at 1.30pm
Please contact the Parish Office to book

Marriages

At least 6 months' notice required prior to date of Marriage.
Please contact Fr O'Donnell

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday: 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm

PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekly Collection 5th February: £5385.23

Monthly Collection 5th February: £3786.12



Thank you for your continued support

Bulletin Notices and Anniversaries

Bulletin Notices should be with the Parish Office by **12 noon on Thursday** to be included in the weekend bulletin.



Sunday Homily

Fr O'Donnell's Homily is available to read and listen to each Sunday morning on our Parish Website. *Please visit the link > [Sunday Homilies](#)*

We reintroduce our Inter Church Lenten Services

Theme: Setting our hearts on fire

Sunday 26th February 7pm

St John's Malone Preaching Ivan Steen or Andy Galbraith

Sunday 5th March at 7pm

Agape Methodist Centre Preaching Stephen Fielding or Kevin Graham

Sunday 12th March at 7pm

McCracken Memorial Church Preaching Emily Hyland

Sunday 19th March at 7pm

Windsor Presbyterian Church Preaching Very Rev Edward O'Donnell

Sunday 26th March at 7pm

St Brigid's Church Preaching Barry McCroskery

Restoration Ministries Lenten Reflection Day

Title: Embracing Mystery (Ephesians 3:14-20)

More than any other season of the year Lent challenges us, invites us to dare to pause and to reflect on that Infinite Love which can never be fully understood with our minds.

To explore this further, we invite you to join with us on our Lenten Reflection Day on **Saturday February 18th 2023 from 2.00pm-4.30pm in St Bride's Hall.**

Women walking together through Lent

Our women's prayer group will resume on **Wednesday 22nd February at 7.30pm in no 40 Derryvolgie Ave.** We will meet each Wednesday during Lent before returning to once a month after Easter.

This is an opportunity to take time out for a peaceful retreat from our busy lives; To pray and reflect together in a quiet space.

Everyone is welcome and it's not necessary to come every week.

Looking forward to being together once again.

Letter of Appeal: Turkey and Syria Earthquake

Dear Parishioners,

This week we have watched and listened, almost in unbelief, to reports of the result of devastating earthquake in Turkey and Northern Syria. The catastrophe is of such a magnitude that it is almost impossible to know how to help. Many charitable organisations, such as Trócaire, will, of course, seek our help in the coming days, but as our Parish, and our One World Group, have direct contacts with Northern Syria in the persons of Fr Fouad Nakhla, S.J., and Fr Tony O'Riordan, S.J. we will channel our funds directly to them. To this end, we will rely on the generous support of parishioners – on the weekend of 18th/19th February envelopes will be distributed at Mass and collected the following weekend.

For further information on the situation in Northern Syria the following links are useful:

- Jesuits in Ireland - Earthquake appeal from Jesuit Missions; jesuit.ie/news/earthquake-appeal-from-jesuit-missions/
- Vatican News – JRS: Quake struck Syrians. www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2023-02/jrs-syria-aleppo-earthquake-fr-oriordan-humanitarian.html

The following is a WhatsApp message which I received on Friday morning from Fr Fouad:

Hello my dear friend,

The situation is really difficult, and it becomes worse. A lot of people lost their homes and are not able to return. The weather is very cold, and we have had snow also. No one is prepared. No fuel in the country or electricity or gas.

I don't know what to say. People couldn't support another catastrophe and now they are facing a destructive earthquake! Pray for them to keep the courage and for us to have strength to stand with them.

We keep our friends, Fr Fouad and Fr Tony, and those with whom they work among, in our prayers.

Fr Eddie O'Donnell.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
XXXI WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

11 February 2023

“Take care of him”

Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing

Dear brothers and sisters!

Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”. For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks these words that represent one of the high points of God’s Revelation: “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak [...] I will feed them with justice” (34:15-16). Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God’s people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord’s attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.

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To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.

Continue reading >>> [CLICK HERE](#)

Short Book Club

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 15 February at 10:10 am** in **St Bride's Hall**. We will be discussing **The Story of Lucy Gault** by **William Trevor** this time. Do come along and join the conversation and meet old friends and new - not compulsory to have read the book. New members always welcome. Tea and coffee served. To join our circulation email - mmmikemoran@aol.com

Slow Down for Lent

Saturday 25 February from 11am – 3pm in Holy Rosary Parish Hall (Ormeau Road). Light-hearted. Plain English. No discussions - just God & you. Tea/coffee provided but please bring your own lunch. Donation £5. To book in or for more info contact Breige O’Hare: breigeohare@firststepwell.com or ring 07565502662.

Embrace: Report Launch 2023

At this event, we will be launching our new Report '*Embracing the Stranger*' Challenges and Opportunities for NI Churches' researched by Emma Soye on **Thursday 23rd February, 12pm – 1.30pm** in **St Brides Parish Hall**. Light lunch included.

‘No Greater Love’

The programme will be facilitated by Fr Paul Byrne & Aishling Steen. There are 5 online sessions – one for each week of Lent which will lead us into Holy week. Beginning: **Monday 27th February for 5 weeks @7pm**. To book your place for our online program please email livingchurch@downandconnor.org



Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse February 24th 2023

Pope Francis has invited Bishops around the world to establish a special day of prayer in the Church year to support the journey of human and spiritual recovery. This day is not only for victims and survivors who have been so severely injured, either inside or outside our Church, but also for the families and communities affected by grief for their loved ones.

In Down and Connor a special Mass will be celebrated on **FRIDAY 24TH February 2023 in Saint Patrick’s Church Donegall Street at 1:00pm** to pray for and remember victims and survivors of abuse within our Church. At this mass the Candle of Atonement will be lit.