



# Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

## Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Year A, Psalter Week 4

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

**Parish Office:** 028 9066 5409; (9 am - 1 pm Weekdays)

**Address:** 40 Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6FP



**Email:** [stbrigids@downandconnor.org](mailto:stbrigids@downandconnor.org) **Website:** [stbrigidsparishbelfast.org](http://stbrigidsparishbelfast.org)

**Livestream/Webcam:** [youtube.com/@stbrigidsparishbelfast](https://youtube.com/@stbrigidsparishbelfast)

## Twenty-Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time

**First Reading:** Reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 25:6-10

*The Lord will prepare a banquet, and will wipe away tears from every cheek.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22

*R/. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.*

**Second Reading:** Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians Ph 4:12-14.19-20

*There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.*

**Gospel:** Gospel according to Matthew Mt 22:1-14

*Invite everyone you can find to the wedding.*

### Anniversary List

**Please pray for** Yana Kors and Gerry Mallin recently deceased, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alice McLaverty, Michael Campbell, Colm Bevan, Eileen McGrenera, John and Mary Margaret McCreighton, Ronnie Armstrong, Tess Stafford, Sarah Madden, Michael Madden Snr, Michael Madden Jnr, Hugh Finnegan, Jack Campbell, John J and Tess Conlon, Michael and Mary Mooney

*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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

*(Total includes Basket Collections, Standing Orders and Dona Donations)*

**Weekly Collection 8<sup>th</sup> October: £7484.99**



*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 this Sunday morning on our Parish Website. Please visit the link > [Sunday Homilies](#)

### Lay Dominican Meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Dominicans will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.45pm in Parish Centre**. All newcomers welcome without any commitment!

### St. Brigid's Apostolic Work

The Apostolic Work has celebrated 100 years and St Brigid's as part of the Diocese of Down and Connor has supported missionaries and their work overseas. Its objectives are to share in the Missionary Apostolate of the Church by prayer, supplying material requirements and financial aid in the developing world.

In many poorer parishes in Africa, Asia and Latin America it is Missionaries who are on the front line. These women and men do so much with poor communities long before and long after any emergencies. They desperately need your help.

**A collection will take place after each Mass on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd October. Envelopes will be distributed at all Masses THIS weekend of 14th and 15th October.**

If you are in a position to help you can donate by a single payment or set up a standing order and credit Apostolic Work,

**Account no:** 00067017 at A.I.B **Sort code:** 93-80-92

If you are a taxpayer and wish to gift aid your donation, please insert your name house number and post code in the reference box when making your payment.

Cheques made payable to Apostolic Work.

Further information is available from Thérèse O'Reilly through the parish office.

We are appealing for your generous support.

The mission to love one another continues.



**APOSTOLIC WORK**  
— DOWN & CONNOR —

**The Parish One World Group is delighted to announce  
a Table Quiz on 20th October in the Parish Hall**

**7.45 for 8pm start.**

*Bring your own drinks and snacks!*



**To book a table or find out more, please phone Kevin on 07525634440**

*[Even if you haven't got enough people for a team,  
please come along and we will link you up with others to make up a table.]*

**Raffle prizes gratefully accepted!**



### Coffee and Chat

Coffee morning for all the 9.30 am Mass goers, immediately after Mass, on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October** in the Parish Centre. Please come along.

### Day Pilgrimage to Knock

Day Pilgrimage to Knock on Thursday 2nd November for the Feast of All Souls. departing from St Agnes at 7.30am, returning approx. 10 pm. Bring a packed lunch. Price £22pp. Contact Pat 07946917354 or Sonia 07877537969

### "Laudate Deum": the Pope's cry for a response to the climate crisis

Pope Francis has published an Apostolic Exhortation building on his 2015 encyclical. We're not reacting enough, he says, we're close to breaking point. He criticises climate change deniers, saying that the human origin of global warming is now beyond doubt. And he describes how care for our common home flows from the Christian faith.

"'Praise God' is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies."

That's how Pope Francis ends his new Apostolic Exhortation, published on the 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It's a text in continuity with his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, which is broader in scope. In six chapters and 73 paragraphs, the Successor of Peter tries to clarify and bring to completion that previous text on integral ecology, while at the same time sounding an alarm, and a call for co-responsibility, in the face of the climate emergency.

In particular, the Exhortation looks ahead to COP28, which will be held in Dubai between the end of November and beginning of December.

The Holy Father writes: "With the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons" (2). It's "one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community" and "the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world" (3).

**In St Brigid's Parish Centre, on 9<sup>th</sup> November next, beginning at 7.30pm, Fr Timothy Barlett will give a presentation on Pope Francis' letter, Laudate Deum. Everyone welcome to attend.**

*Fr O'Donnell's words at the launch, in St Anne's Church of Ireland Cathedral, of Rev John Mann's book, "Journeying to the Light". Rev Mann is the former Dean of St Anne's.*

**Book Launch**  
**St Anne's Cathedral,**  
**28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
***Journeying to the Light***  
**by**  
**John Mann**

In his reflection for the fourth day of Advent, John writes, "In taking my violin out of its case and turning up a piece of music, I look for something that will get my fingers and bowing arm moving but has a tune as well." Just a few weeks ago, we remembered the tenth anniversary of the death of Seamus Heaney. When asked about their favourite Heaney poem many will answer "Digging", but my favourite is "The Given Note". It concerns a "fiddler" – and begins:

"On the most westerly Blasket  
In a dry-stone hut  
He got this air out of the night".

While I realise John Mann is unlikely to describe himself as a "fiddler", nevertheless, that which Heaney describes in his poem, John has achieved in his book, "Journeying to the light" – Bishop Brendan Leahy rightly comments in his introduction, "There are many gems in this text".

Heaney, in his poem, says of the fiddler:

"For he had gone alone into the island  
And brought back the whole thing.  
The house throbbed like his full violin".

John has journeyed out to those islands, situated in our liturgical year, named Advent and Christmastide, "And brought back the whole thing", those wonderful rhymes, and music, of Emmanuel. The poem concludes:

"It comes off the bow gravely,  
Rephrases itself into the air".

In this book, John, has for us, "gently but clearly" (*B. Leahy, Introduction*), rephrased Advent and Christmastide, that, just as Heaney noted, "The house throbbed like his full violin", our hearts might "throb" with wonder and joy at God's amazing plan, "gently but clearly" revealed in the scriptures of the season. Those who truly engage with the reflections in John's book will find them "transformative".

John makes reference to that great spiritual master of the mid-twentieth century, Thomas Merton. Commenting on the Advent season, Merton, wrote, "the Church in preparing us for the birth of a "great prophet", a Saviour and King of Peace, has in mind more than seasonal cheer. In Advent we celebrate the coming and indeed the presence of Christ in our world" (*cf Meditations on the Liturgy, Mowbrays, p42*). "The Word become flesh", in person, seeks to enter into conversation with everyone.

A very attractive feature of "Journeying to the Light" is its conversational tone – John talks to us about himself and his experiences, about his family and ministry; about people encountered, especially those encountered in the scripture ascribed to Advent and Christmastide; he shares insightful observations concerning the realities of the modern world, reminding us that we "are not mere bystanders" in a tired and sinful world (*cf Day Six, p16*). At times we are invited to be like Isaiah, and to feel the roughness of the ground, its unevenness, and its gradients (*cf Day 10, p 26*), then, in other moments, in quiet contemplative prayer, to take flight with the Johannine eagle (*cf Day 11, p28*).

These meditations are as series of conversations, best read slowly, and in doing so we will find ourselves joining in the conversation. That great medieval saint, Catherine of Siena, claimed that there was no greater joy than talking with one's friends about God. This book, "Journeying to the Light", allows us to share in such a joy. John, thank-you for this joy!

In the reflection for Day 1, the First Sunday of Advent, John begins, "I launch us into our journey through Advent....". Justice can only be done to these reflections by actually making the journey. We couldn't do better than be launched this Advent with "Journeying to the Light" as our "navigational chart"! (By-the-way, Advent begins this year on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, therefore, we have adequate time to acquire a copy!)

John, thank you for inviting me to say these few words at the launch your book; thank you for, in the words of St Paul, your "concern for all the churches (*Phil.2:1-2*); thank you for your friendship.