



Saint Brigid's Parish

Pastoral Community of South and East Belfast

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

11th June 2023, Year A, Psalter Week 2

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

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Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Reading from the book of Exodus Ex 19:2-6

I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 99:1-3,5. R. v.3

R/. We are his people: the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 5:6-11
Now that we have been reconciled by the death of his son, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son.

Gospel: Gospel according to Matthew Mat 9:36-10:8

He summoned his twelve disciples and sent them out.

Anniversary List

Please pray for Edmond Carberry recently deceased, Agatha Rosarie Heatherington whose months mind it is and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: James McSparran, Freda McLaverty, Nellie Smyth, Ricky O'Rawe, Desmond McGovern, Veronica McKeating, Patrick Joseph McCauley, Alison Lee, James McLoughlin, Eileen Eastwood

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 11th June: £4565.00



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](#)

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd June.

Short Book Club

The book chosen for this month's face to face meeting is **The Loved One** by **Evelyn Waugh**. Everyone welcome - especially new members. Come along and join the discussion. The meeting will take place at **10:10am** on **Wednesday 21st June** in **St Bride's Hall**; coffee and tea will be available.

Lay Dominican Meeting

The next meeting of the Lay Dominicans will be on **Monday 19th June at 7.45pm** in **Parish Centre**. (Reflection: *My Life in Fiji* by Fr Patrick Colgan)
Please Feel free to come along without any commitment!

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

In St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that "the harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to the harvest". We must continue to ask God for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but we must also recognise that we all have a calling from God and through our Baptism, we have received the gifts or charisms of the Holy Spirit to equip us to fulfil it.

In the coming months, we will begin to establish our new Families of Parishes across the Diocese. These are not simply parish structures, but are communities of faith where all, lay and ordained, work together to serve God and to serve, love, and care for each other. The new Families will be asking people to come forward to be trained and commissioned in a range of ministries such as catechesis, youth ministry and funeral ministry. Volunteers will be needed to help with management and administration. Liturgy teams will be needed to plan and organise prayer services and celebrations. Parish Families will need Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, musicians, and so much more.

As we begin the process of renewal that Bishop McKeown spoke of at Pentecost, and as we plan for the practical changes that this will entail, we invite you to take time to pray and reflect on what this will mean for you personally. What role could you play? How will you use your Baptismal gifts for the glory of God and the love of others? How will you respond to God's call for you?

To find out more go to www.pathwaystothefuture.org

SAFEGUARDING REVIEW - St Brigid's Parish

The Diocese of Down and Connor invited the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland to conduct a review of safeguarding practice of children and young people across the Diocese 6-9 June 2023. St Brigid's participated in the review.

Father O'Donnell, Parish Group leaders and the Parish Safeguarding Committee met with the review and discussed practical safeguarding in action and maintaining best safeguarding practice in our parish to ensure a safe and nurturing place for young people where they can grow and develop their faith. The reviewer was very appreciative of the contribution of the parish to the review.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the review.

St Brigid's Parish Safeguarding Committee

New Parish Volunteers Children's Liturgy and GIFT Saturday 24 June

New Parish volunteers who will be working with children and young people in GIFT or Children's Liturgy must be vetted and undertake a criminal records check

New Volunteers are invited to attend to complete vetting applications on Saturday 24th June 2023 from 10am to 12noon in the Parish Hall.

If you are interested in volunteering or intending to attend this session, please could you leave your name and contact details in advance with the Parish Office.

You will need to bring original identification documents listed [here](https://downandconnorsafeguarding.com/IDForm):
downandconnorsafeguarding.com/IDForm

For further information please contact the parish office.

'A Service of Lament'

An ecumenical service at St. Anne's Cathedral

Wednesday, 21 June, 11.30am - 12.30pm

The 21st of June has been set in Northern Ireland as a Day of Reflection. As the sun reaches its highest point, we are given time to pause and acknowledge the grief that countless individuals have experienced through sectarian violence – and to commit ourselves to a more hope-filled future for everyone. We extend an invitation to you and those in your community to join us for this year's service which lasts about an hour. We hope you can join us.

DAY FOR LIFE 2023

Sunday 18th June 2023

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Day for Life is celebrated this year on Sunday 18 June. The theme is '*Listen to Her*' and focuses on the experience of one Catholic woman in the aftermath of abortion. It tells of her journey towards healing. The hope is that this will help people to listen, to understand and to respond with compassion.

Day for Life Message

Jane's Story

I went to Catholic schools, I knew about God and morality on some level, but for me, the culture spoke louder when it came to making decisions around sexuality.

When I was 15, I discovered I was pregnant and the fear clouded everything. I had one aim, and that was to solve the problem I had found myself in. A quick search for confidential help landed me at a clinic connected to an abortion provider. They seemed to genuinely believe that abortion was the solution to my problem and I don't remember discussing any other options. I was relieved when they determined that I was capable enough to make this decision alone, without the involvement of an adult, which is still legal to this day.

That Saturday I travelled alone to the clinic. My parents were unaware, due to other difficulties in the family home that I didn't want to contribute to. I went through the degrading experience of a surgical abortion, and I thought that if I could just get through that day, I would never have to think about it again. I remember feeling conflicted as a tear rolled down my cheek, that I quickly wiped away. I believed I couldn't be sad because this was something I had chosen to do. So, after the initial feeling of relief, I pushed down the experience and avoided anything to do with the topic of abortion. It was difficult to be around pregnant women and I found the anniversary difficult each year.

Over the next few years, I became more curious about faith through the invitation of a friend. I was looking for direction and truth, but my spiritual life was always tainted by the thought that I could never be forgiven for what I had done – somehow, God's mercy didn't apply to me. In the fleeting moments of honesty with myself and God, I knew that my choice didn't make me lose something, but someone. At times, this realisation was unbearable. This led to periods of deep depression and suicidal thoughts, as well as more promiscuous behaviour and numbing the pain with alcohol, food, or isolation.

This all changed when I was encouraged to go to confession. Even when I tried to justify my choice, the priest met me with the love and mercy of Jesus. The tears he shed melted my heart of stone. I began to give up my old ways of life and follow His way. On this journey I was introduced to Rachel's Vineyard: a healing ministry that provides support for those who are suffering after abortion. I remember the kindness of the woman that I spoke to, and I knew I wouldn't be judged there.

It took so much courage to go on a retreat, but I can genuinely say it changed my life. By hearing other people share their stories and being gently encouraged by the team, I was able to speak the truth of what had happened to me on that day. My feelings were acknowledged, including my sense of loss. I was finally given permission to grieve for the baby that had died through my choice. I acknowledged my motherhood and named my son Joseph. This was the start of God turning the guilt, shame and unforgiveness into a deep love for my son, as any good mother would have.

The healing has continued alongside my faith journey. I've taken responsibility for the role I played in my abortion, but with perspective and time, I can see that my 'choice' wasn't really a choice at all. There were other people's failures, and an inability to truly give informed consent as a teenager that also contributed. The option that was presented as a quick fix solution has eternal consequences, and I truly believe that if I'd have known the impact abortion would have had on my life, even as a teenager, I would have made a different choice.

Support Organisations

Have you or someone you know been affected by abortion? There are some wonderful organisations that can help you. Here are three.

Rachel's Vineyard rachelsvineyard.ie / rachelsvineyard.org.uk

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew and rebuild your life after experiencing the trauma of abortion. Their healing weekends offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can deal with painful post-abortive emotions.

Gianna Care giannacare.ie

Gianna Care's goal is to help people in any way they can. Whether you are experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, or need help following an abortion, their trained client advocates, counsellors, nurses and doctors are here to help.

Abortion Recovery Care and Helpline (ARCH) archtrust.org.uk

ARCH is dedicated to promoting the emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being of clients, by the provision of real understanding, counselling and supportive help to women, men and families after an abortion.