

Footsteps of Jesus

Parish Council Chairman

New Parish Council Members

Annual Parish Assembly

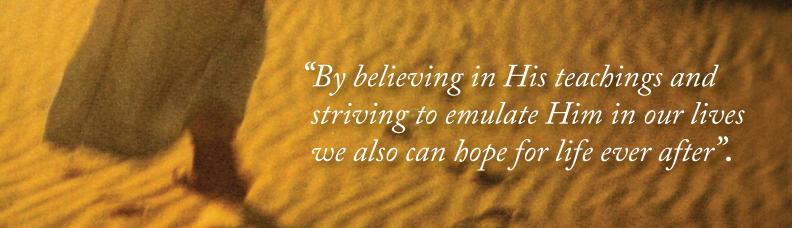
for St. Anne's Parish

Watch out Usain and Lewis!

Why does Easter's Date change?

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Easter Announcements



Follow in the footsteps of Jesus

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; He who came to earth, lived among us, died for us, and then rose again as the prophets had foretold.

His sacrifice in dying on the cross opened up for us all a route to life everlasting. By His rising on the third day after crucifixion He turned earthly death into a celebration of life everlasting. And that is why we celebrate His rising again. Because he has shown us the way; by believing in His teachings and striving to emulate Him in our lives we also can hope for life ever after.

Easter Sunday, without doubt, is the most important date in our Christian church's calendar; let's all look forward to it.

In our modern day life of difficult financial pressures, struggles faced by parents, students striving to achieve academic success, people seeking employment, those coping with sickness or disability, those lonely or bereaved, the threats to welfare benefits, the constant onslaught of commercial offerings, and 24 hours media bombardment, it is hard to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

All these various pressures however, pale in the face of what Jesus endured for us. Therefore surely we owe it to Him to at least try to emulate Him in our daily lives, in spite of the difficulties we each might face? Let Jesus be our heavenly role model as we move forward in this year of 2014.

And indeed for those who also seek an earthier role model, none fits the bill better than His Holiness Pope Francis, a Pontiff who already, in a little over 12 months as the leader of our church- the world's largest Christian denomination- has brought about renewed hope for millions as he spurns wealth and the trappings of power for humility, bringing good news and commitment to those who are most disadvantaged.

Here in St. Anne's I believe we also have among our parishioners many who could in truth portray splendid examples as role models; those who work in the caring professions, those in community and social services and the many other groups of people who daily go about helping and giving aid to others.

And I think also of those who help plan for the future pastoral development of our parish as members of the Parish's Pastoral Council, and in doing so I again offer my congratulations to the new and continuing members who do so much, and often unseen work, to help us all move more closer to Christ.

I wish everyone a joyous and happy Easter. And as a good number of parishioners go away for Easter I wish you a happy, blessed Easter and a safe journey. Otherwise I look forward to seeing you at the Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies.

I hope that in Jesus, in Francis, in your neighbour, you see role models that will lead you more closely to God with the promise of eventually achieving truly everlasting life.

Rev Father Feargal Mc Grady PP

Parish Pastoral Chairman bows out

As the current Parish Pastoral Council comes to the end of its three years term I thank all of the members for their willing participation and contribution to the work of the Council in supporting Fr. Feargal and Sister Mary in their work of faith development in St. Anne's. They have made my task as Chair all the easier.

The Parish Council is now an intrinsic and important part of parish life. It is a strong example of lay participation and it has been active in many areas of the parish community readily embracing the five pillars of the Living Church Strategy. I was pleased that some twenty parishioners attended the Diocesan Living Church Congress representing not only the Parish Council but also other parish and diocesan groups.

During its term of office the Council has re-introduced the Children's' Liturgy at the vigil and 12 noon Masses with great success. Last year it undertook visitation in the parish covering all of the housing developments of the Blacks' Road area, being warmly welcomed by both new and existing parishioners. This visiting was suspended during the dark nights of winter, but with the bright nights here again it will be resumed shortly to cover other parts of the parish.

A course organised by the Council, on Catholicism, was well attended and it is hoped to organise a similar course in the near future. A recent cross denominational ALPHA course involving Lowe Memorial Church was very successful. As well as developing new activities we have been supportive of the initiatives begun by the previous Council, e.g. the Welcoming Ministry, the Bereavement Support Group and indeed this very publication, St. Anne's Parish Matters. A free parish trust (we trust borrowers to return books!) library has been developed which now holds a large number of publications on a wide variety of faith related topics. These are available for any parishioner to borrow and read at their leisure from the library, which is housed in the room to the right of the Church altar.

A full report on the work of the Council over the past three years will be made at the annual Parish Assembly which will be held on the 1st June at 7.0pm in the Parish Centre. This year the special guest speaker will be Bishop Noel Treanor; I hope that many of our parishioners will join us in attending this very important event.

I am very pleased at the number of nominations received for membership of the incoming Parish Council and I look forward to meeting and introducing them to the present PPC.

I have completed the maximum two terms on the Council and therefore I am stepping down this year, but I will be pleased to give the new PPC my full support. I ask all of you to give it your full support also and to remember the Council members in your prayers.

God bless.

Noel Redmond

New Parish Pastoral Council members appointed

Nine new members have been appointed to the Parish Pastoral Council for a minimum three year's period. They are:

Peter Agnew (Snr) Douglas Gilroy

Mary Devlin Francis Hughes

Sonia Donnelly Sean Jordan

Harry Fitzpatrick David Scallon

Angelina Fusco

SAINT ANNE'S PARISH THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

is pleased to invite all parishioners to the

Annual Parish Assembly

Sunday June 1
Parish Centre • 7.00 Sharp

Assembly Theme: The Living Church

Special Guest Speaker BISHOP NOEL TREANOR

Brief presentations from PPC members plus questions and answer session Evening starts 7.00 promptly so come early! Tea and coffee chat time at talks conclusion Event ends 9.00 pm. Everyone invited

This is your opportunity to hear from our distinguished guest and PPC members so please try to attend.



The Living Church



A Vision for St. Anne's Parish

The hope is that St Anne's Parish will continue to grow as a community of faith: through sharing in worship, prayer and the sacraments; through caring for each other, especially for those most in need; through using our individual gifts for the good of all; through living out our Christian responsibility to proclaim and live the Gospel; thus deepening the presence of Christ in our community.

The Mission for St. Anne's Parish Pastoral Council

The Parish Pastoral Council will work to further this vision for the parish. Through prayer, reflection and working with the priests, religious and laity, the Parish Pastoral Council will develop the means by which the parish will move forward on its spiritual journey.



The tasks of running a busy and vibrant parish like St. Anne's simply would be impossible without the help and dedication of a number of parishioners who quietly and unobtrusively perform a range of vital roles. The job of the sacristan is one of those key positions. John Dugdale has been speaking to our sacristan Jim Mc Cann. This is his story.

Former school teacher Jim had been retired for just a year or so when the late Monsignor Bartley, then St. Anne's PP, asked him if he would consider being St. Anne's new sacristan in 1999. Although Jim didn't want another job, he agreed to help out. Fifteen years later, he says that the experience has been "a privilege".

As sacristan, Jim has responsibility for preparing all things necessary for the celebration of Mass. That includes everything from ensuring that the parish has a supply of Communion breads to assisting at funerals.

During his time as sacristan, Jim has enjoyed getting to know the priests and the satisfaction of doing something useful. He was even afforded advance notice that Donal McKeown was to be appointed as a Bishop, although he wasn't quite sure at the time whether to believe it or not!

Since November 2013 Jim has been assisted in his duties by Kate Mc Auley, whom he describes as a "very willing helper". Kate and Jim now split the services between them, meaning that he doesn't need to be at every Mass.

The great advantage of having an assistant is that it allows Jim to take leave, making it easier for him to find the time to visit his grandchildren in England. The former Clonard Altar Boy (who served at the very first Novena 70 years ago along with Father Clement Marshall) has two grandchildren with a third on the way, so the opportunity to take some well-deserved time off is a welcome one.

Jim would like to see more parishioners take part in the celebration of Mass. He gives the example of more people being involved in the preparation and presentation of the gifts at Mass.



"In 1986 the Sport Aid "Run for the World" event, inspired by Bob Geldof, took place in towns and cities all around the world to raise funds for famine relief in Ethiopia, with several thousand people taking part in runs in Belfast and other locations in Northern Ireland; many millions of pounds were raised worldwide on that single day," Tom recalled.

Following the huge success of the Geldof events, the Belfast One World run – formerly the Third World Run, a unique cross-community Charity Fun Run, was started in Belfast in 1987during the height of the troubles, by a small local group which included Tom, the two Johns, and Laurence Frazer.

The following year those people joined by others, most of whom had taken part in the Sport Aid Run, decided to organise a similar event again in Belfast to help provide aid for those living in various 'Third World' countries who still faced the ever-present problems of hunger, disease and natural catastrophes.

"We agreed from the outset that the Run would be a cross-community event," Tom stressed, "organised with the assistance of the four local agencies which were engaged in relief and development work in many under-developed countries - Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and Trocaire".

Over 1,000 runners took part in the initial "Third World Run" and over £5,000 was raised, and divided between the four benefiting agencies. It was then decided to continue to hold a similar event annually, with the new name being adopted in 2012.

The first Runs started at Maysfield Leisure Centre and went along a route through various streets in the city, but for operational reasons later Runs were transferred to the present location, starting and finishing at the Ozone Leisure Centre in Ormeau Park. The Run is along paths in the Park and along Ormeau Embankment, and is suitable for both serious runners and casual joggers, and also families and pram-pushers.

There are four separate events to cater for entrants of all ages and abilities: a 10K Run, a 3K Run, and a 3K "Family Fun Walk" and this year there is also the "Lady Anne Walk." The Run now regularly attracts about 500-600 entries, producing each year an annual surplus - after expenses - of around £7,000 - £8,000, which is donated to the four benefiting charities. So far over £156,000 has been distributed to the four agencies.

The organising committee, John Watson emphasised, is entirely voluntary and cross-community, and expenses are kept to a minimum - printing costs, hire of facilities, insurance etc. "The Run does not have any major commercial sponsorship, and the



Sporting stars, media personalities and a range of other celebrities have graced the runs over the years; boxer Dave Boy Mc Auley, Rugby's Jimmy Davidson, Irish league footballers, Commonwealth Games sprinter Gerry Carson and so on, but none quite stole the limelight as did former four times NI 800 metres champion John Glover, who is still the undefeated World Wheelie bin champion!

money raised comes from three main sources," he said. "We get entry fees, sponsorship raised by participants, and gifts and donations from some generous individual donors who have supported the event for many years, notably Frazer and Cleaver Black IFS, and Hilltop B&B Drumbo."

T-shirts have been generously donated each year by Ray Mullan of "Collar and Tie" Menswear, Lisburn.

Many well-known local personalities from the worlds of sport, the media, business, politics, and the churches have supported or participated in the Run over the years. Some individuals have run and returned sponsorship regularly for many years, while pupils and teachers from one local primary school - St. Colman's Primary School, Lambeg – have been constant participants (for more than twenty years) and have raised more than £6,000 in sponsorship.

The Run is now a regular part of the Belfast calendar, attracting entrants from all over the province and further a field. Over the years we have been privileged to have the support of our patrons Lady Anne McCollum and the late David Dunseith, both of whom made significant contributions to its success. The other current Patron is well-known media personality, John Daly.

"We look forward with confidence and enthusiasm to the continuing growth of the Belfast
One World Run, so I encourage everyone to get involved and help to increase the financial support we can give to those agencies we are associated with," is former headmaster John's earnest plea to parishioners.

Wheelie bins to "No mean feet!

Current Run chairman Laurence Frazer recalled some of the quirkier times the organisers have had over the years. "One of the funniest memories I have was the Wheelie Bin Race, aimed at getting small local companies involved whereby they could advertise their business on the front of the bin as they pushed it along," he admitted.

Celebrities such as Gerry Anderson also took part. "I can remember setting off with my wife and two young sons pushing our bin, but it wasn't long before our youngest son insisted that he should be inside the bin and pulled along rather than helping to push it," he admitted. "He spent most of the run with his head poking from the top of the bin enjoying the scenery!"

And at this year's launch of the Run at Stormont, Laurence revealed that the organisers are releasing a song composed by committee member, runner and musician Maurice Mac Cartney and performed by him and Wilson Magwere, a Zimbabwean living in Belfast. The song is aptly entitled 'No Mean Feet', and is very professionally produced. Sure to be a hit.

Inspiration

John McGill, like Dr. Tom and John Watson, a former chairman of the organising group, confessed that his experience of "running the world" in 1986 gave him inspiration at a time of great tension in the city and throughout Northern Ireland.

"The atmosphere at that event was so tense," he told me. "People of all ages, backgrounds, creeds and colours were there and all jogging along with music playing, it was a wonderful carefree occasion, gone were- at least for a while- the tensions of everyday life. Strangers stood and held hands and somehow that day, we gave a sign to the politicians that we could all be involved together to achieve something special, caring for the people of the Third World."

John had found himself running along with Tom Wilson, a fellow parishioner of St. Anne's and both wondered if the event would be held again the following year. However it was not to be repeated and that's when the pair decided to see if they could organise a group to stage a similar run ...and here it is 28 years later, a superb annual event and still helping make it happen are Tom Laurence and the two Johns. What a storyline for a film, eh?

Martin Young

There are people in St. Anne's who could give Usain Bolt a run for his money and others who would not see Lewis Hamilton in their way!

Those are honest appraisals of the Mass goers who weekly appear to have urgent business to attend to immediately after the service ends, and sometimes not even as it ends, but as the Priest begins to conclude the Mass.

Fr. Feagal, to be fair to him, rarely complains about those who exit the Church at great speed, with those leaving sharply often getting in the way of the return to the Sacristy by altar servers, readers and Eucharistic Ministers.

He doesn't complain when drivers and passengers hurl themselves into their vehicles, often parked for a quick get away, and race off as though they were in a Formula 1 event.

He does not complain, perhaps because he is glad that these people at least attend Mass, and so excuses their lack of manners. But I, an ordinary parishioner can complain, and that is just what I am doing now!

Mass usually lasts about 50 minutes, rarely does it hit the hour mark. Yet there are too many it seems who lack the grace, or manners to wait until the service is truly over! Also how disappointing and discourteous it is to the choir or folk group for parishioners to leave before the musicians and singers have finished their final hymn.

I wonder do these early leavers act in a similar way when watching Coronation Street or Eastenders, or switch off their TV in the final few minutes of a football match or the end of a drama.

Watch out Usain and Lewis!

Surely our faith is worth more than a television programme or sports event? Is at most one hour per week devoted to God not a better investment for a future life still to come?

So please don't rush from the Church, take your time, wait until the service is really over, leave slowly, greet others, exchange the time of day with each other and if driving a car be patient. Leaving early or at great pace from the car park seems at odds with the act of attending the Church.

God, I am sure, will not mind if you tarry a while and perhaps spend a minute or too in the Church after a service when you can devote some private time for prayer. Take time, less haste is good for both your faith and your health.

Martin Young

Why does the date of Easter change every year? Who decides when Easter is?

Easter Sunday falls on different dates annually, and this year it's on Sunday April 20th. The long bank holiday weekend begins on Good Friday, April 18, and Easter Monday on April 21 is the final day in the bank holiday festivities.

In western Christianity, Easter always falls between March 22 and April 25.

But why does Easter change every year?

At the heart of the matter lies a very simple explanation. The early church fathers wished to keep the observance of Easter in correlation to the Jewish Passover. Because the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus happened after the Passover, they wanted Easter to always be celebrated subsequent to the Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year.

Now, from here the explanation grows more complicated. Today in Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the paschal full moon date of the year. This was a result of a decision by the First Council of Nicaea - a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia (north western part of Asia Minor) by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325. They made decisions in an effort to attain a consensus on several Christian topics.

Based on the paschal full moon, it was decided by the bishops that Easter Day would fall on the next full moon after the spring equinox. This was because Easter must fall on a Sunday as it was the day of Christ's resurrection.

The paschal full moon was chosen because the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter is the Sunday after Passover.

However since the paschal full moon can be on different days in different time zones, it was decided that the full moon is always determined to be the 14th day of the lunar month. Even though the spring equinox can occur on March 20, the church also fixes the spring equinox as March 21.

In actuality, the date of the paschal full moon is determined from historical tables, and has no correspondence to lunar events. As astronomers were able to approximate the dates of all the full moons in future years, the Western Christian Church used these calculations to establish a table of Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates. These dates would determine the Holy Days on the Ecclesiastical calendar.

Though modified slightly from its original form, by 1583 A.D, the table for determining the Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates was permanently established and has been used ever since to determine the date of Easter.

Thus, according to the Ecclesiastical tables, the paschal full moon is the first Ecclesiastical Full Moon date after March 20 (which happened to be the vernal equinox date in 325 A.D.). So, in Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the paschal full moon.

The paschal full moon can vary as much as two days from the date of the actual full moon, with dates ranging from March 21 to April 18. As a result, Easter dates can range from March 22 through April 25 in Western Christianity.

So now you know!

Martin Young





Eucharistic Adoration Update

The Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Apostolate has recently completed presentations in a number of parishes throughout the Diocese and there are now 33 parishes with Eucharistic Adoration taking place on a specified rota, with several thousand Adorers spending at least one hour in the presence of the Lord.

These parishes, like St Anne's, have dedicated members serving on a committee with the expressed desire to continue and increase Adoration in each parish and, where possible to spread it to neighbouring parishes by prayer and example.

The Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Apostolate committee represents all of the participating parishes of Down and Connor. It has organised training days for those interested in becoming 'Presenters'- those who visit parishes who wish to have Adoration-and who help in setting it up. The committee also have 'Prayer Liaison' volunteers who pray for the success of Adoration in new parishes, and 'Helpers' who assist in the distribution and collection of the documentation necessary for forming a rota system of Adorers so that attendance is spread over all the hours of Adoration as desired by each parish.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in the Diocesan Eucharistic Adoration Apostolate committee should contact the Parish Office for details.

Now here are two personal reflections from St. Anne's parishioners who attend our Adoration on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday morning.

Maria (not her real name)

"I have always been more like Martha than her sister Mary. Busy in my daily job and at home, cooking, washing, ironing and with almost endless housework, I always felt that I couldn't afford the time to experience Eucharist Adoration.

How wrong could I have been! I now eagerly look forward to my hour in the presence of our Lord and Saviour each week in St. Anne's. That special hour with the Lord enriches me on two different levels.

On a human level the peace and tranquility of the church allows me to refresh my mind and body from life's daily chores. I always feel re-invigorated after my weekly visit. On a more spiritual level I have found that Adoration has enhanced my personal relationship with the Lord; in His words "find a quiet place to pray" and enjoying his company "watching with Him for one hour". You too should consider spending "one hour" in His company, watching with Him, escaping the daily trials and tribulations which affect us all. If we think about it, He is in our company for the other one hundred and sixty seven hours, watching."

Eucharist Adoration by a Married Couple

"We were attracted to Adoration by the desire to set aside specific time each week to come before the living presence of in the Blesses Sacrament to adore, praise and thank Him, to seek His support and help to discern His will for our lives and family. Adoration also helps us to come into that silence which escapes us so often in the busyness of daily life. We have on many occasions been preoccupied by our own concerns going to Adoration and have felt the grace and peace of God on leaving the church.

In the past we had made spontaneous visits to Eucharist Adoration in different churches over the years and have committed ourselves to a specific time of Eucharistic Adoration in St. Anne's since its inception. This commitment is different from spontaneous visits to the Blessed Sacrament since it is a decision, regardless of feelings or activities in our lives, which will ensure that we present ourselves before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at a specific time for one hour each week and honour the commitment that we undertook.

The Blessings and Graces that are available in the commitment of setting aside time each week in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament are immeasurable and fidelity to this commitment we believe, brings great strength to our faith journey."

David O Doherty

Easter Announcements

13th April: Palm Sunday

Blessing of the Palms and sprinkling at all masses Procession before the 10.00 am Mass.

17th April: Holy Thursday

Chrism Mass in St Peter's Cathedral at 11am

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with Folk Choir. Special offertory Procession with the Consecrated Oils. and Holy Communion under both species.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Side Altar until 11pm.

18th April: Good Friday

10.00 am Morning Prayer.

3.00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with Traditional Choir. 7.30 pm. Prayer at the Cross with the Folk Group.

19th April: Holy Saturday

10.00am Morning Prayer.9.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass of the Resurrection with Traditional Choir.

20th April: Easter Sunday

7.00 am Sunrise in the Park hosted this year by St Colman's Church of Ireland. Masses at 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

Easter Week 21st - 26th April

No Mass on Easter Monday evening. Mass as usual each morning at 10.00 am.

St. Anne's Parish Matters **Comments?**

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the parish magazine, so please get in touch if you have a story of interest to the parish or if you have suggestions for future features, simply send an email to: office@saintannesparish.net with magazine editor in the subject line or drop us a note to the editor, c/o the parish office.

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Prayer to Saint Anne

O good Saint Anne

You watched tenderly over your daughter Mary Who became the mother of Jesus our Saviour.

You brought Mary up in the faith of her people and Taught her to know and love the Scared Scriptures So that she could create a fitting home for her Son. There Jesus lived in faith and prayer In loving kindness and mutual understanding.

We ask that you pray that we may do likewise and Stay close to Jesus all the days of our life and so be Filled with the Spirit who makes us the children Of God.

O good Saint Anne, in communion with you And your daughter Mary, ever Blessed, We offer our family prayer to your grandson Jesus Christ, our Lord

Amen.

This edition of St. Anne's Parish Matters was produced by: Gerry Carson (Editor), Tony Bell (Design and graphics), John Dugdale, David O' Doherty, Martin Young and Ronan Wright.