

### **HANNAHSTOWN HERITAGE AND CULTURAL SOCIETY**

–There will be a talk by Jim Bradley on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 8pm in Community Hall. Jim will speak about the history of Belfast Hills and what has been found there over the last few years. He will also talk about our Heritage room. This will be a chance for everyone to have an input into the final appearance of the room. May I also take this opportunity to remind everyone that the annual subscription of £5 is now due. As we have arranged some outings for the coming year those who have paid will get first refusal. The Society depends on your subscription to fund lectures and other events during the year. You can also enrol family members and friends. Please come along and have your say about our heritage room.

### **ST OLIVER PLUNKETT PARISH – VACANCY – PARISH**

**SECRETARY**– The Parish of St Oliver Plunkett is seeking to recruit a Secretary on a part-time basis. 25 hours per week – work pattern to be agreed. Details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website by clicking on the tab: **JOB VACANCIES**. It can also be found on the Community NI website. Terms and conditions relating to the role can be accessed there, together with the Job Description and Employment Application form. Application packs are also available from the Parish Office of St Oliver Plunkett Parish. Applications are welcome from anyone who feels that they meet the criteria and are interested in playing an active part within the parish. Closing date for receipt of applications will be 12 noon on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

### **ACTION CANCER – THE 5K DIVIS DANDER**

– Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm. Starting from Divis Road car park. Early bird prices: Adults £15 Children £5. Cost on the day Adults £20 Children £10. To register please contact Action Cancer on 02890 803349 or [events@actioncancer.org](mailto:events@actioncancer.org)

### **FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION OF REPARATION**

As requested by Our Lady of Fatima will take place in the Church of Christ the Redeemer, Lagmore, Belfast, BT17 0TG on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October**: Sacrament of Reconciliation from 8.30am; Rosary at 8.45am; Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary at 9.10am (for fifteen minutes) Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at

Parish of Hannahstown - St Joseph's & St Peter's  
30th SEPTEMBER 2018 – 26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

### **REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY'S WORD OF GOD**

If we were to take every word of Jesus in the gospel literally, there'd be a lot of blind, lame, and maimed people about. 'If your hand, or your foot, or your eye, should cause you to sin, tear them off' – so says Jesus in today's gospel reading.

Clearly, we're not intended to take these words to the letter. But not taking words *literally* doesn't mean not taking them *seriously*. It doesn't actually take too much effort to get to the meaning of those strong words: Jesus is telling us that if something that is a part of our life is causing us to sin, or has become a problem, we may need to cut it off.

An alcoholic doesn't need to drink less, but to quit drinking, to amputate any part of his or her former life that might lead back to drink. The effort involved in giving up an addiction may feel like an amputation. But it's only the way to life: indeed it's the *only* way to life.

Jesus understands our tendency to sin. He knows that left to ourselves, we go with gravity, with the flow. Given our natural tendency to fall rather than rise, it will sometimes be the case that we need to cut *out*, rather than cut *down*.

To go back to the unfortunate alcoholic – or let's say, a near-alcoholic. If someone is developing a problem with the bottle, and is beginning to realise this, but still reason: 'Well, I'll just keep one bottle in the house,' they'll be kidding themselves, engaging in a bit of double-think. But Jesus' words confront our double- thinking and our subtlety: 'If there's something in your life that's causing you to sin, *cut it out*.'

If we examine ourselves and discover that, by the grace of God, there isn't, at this time, anything that's particularly harmful, any specific occasion of sin, then thank God. But even if that's the case, Jesus' words still have something to say to us. They invite us to be on our guard and to seek the Lord's help in our weakness.

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