

## Thinking about it

### Jesus the Teacher

Have you ever had a teacher who had that something you just couldn't quite put your finger on - that air of authority that made you instantly respect them; that charisma and enthusiasm that inspired you to listen and to think? Maybe you were lucky enough to have a teacher who left a lasting impression or even propelled you towards your chosen career or way of life? Remember how you felt in their presence?

What kind of teacher was Jesus? When Jesus taught for the first time in the synagogue, he took the people by surprise. They were 'astonished'. What stands out from the description, and what marks Jesus' teaching apart from everyone else, is that he taught with authority: 'Here is a teaching that is new and with authority behind it.' His audience had surely been to the synagogue before. Travelling teachers would often preach in the synagogue. Yet, whatever the people were used to hearing, they had encountered no one like Jesus before. Mark points out that 'unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority'. He had something their regular teachers lacked. Those who hear him can see that this is something new and exciting. Even the unclean spirits recognise his authority. We meet Jesus here at the beginning of his ministry; earlier in the Gospel of Mark he has been proclaiming the good news: 'The kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news'. Jesus is not simply teaching the Scriptures as the scribes did. He is proclaiming the coming of God's kingdom. *Triona Doherty*

## Questions people ask

### Q. Do you believe in the devil or is it just a notion from the times before modern psychiatry and understanding of the psyche?

A. Don't underestimate the wisdom of olden times as shown in sophisticated mythology. I certainly do believe in the reality and power of evil spirits who would lead people astray into a quagmire of badness. The evidence of evil is all around us. Jesus said that the devil is a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies (John 8:44). Lies, especially when masquerading as half-truths confuse the mind. He called the devil the prince of this world but added that he was about to cast him out (John 12:31). The last petition of the Lord's Prayer is for deliverance from the evil one. If Jesus took the evil influence of the devil seriously, we should do likewise. *Fr Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap*

### Parish Prayer Concerns

**Recently Deceased:** Joan Brady (Months Mind), Thomas Boyle, Samuel Kavangh.

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Keegan, John Keegan, Sally O'Neill, Mary Peyton, Gerry Owens, Agnes McKeown, John Kerr.

### offerings

Weekly Offering £642

*Thank you for your generous support for our parish life and mission.*

## Dates for your Diary

### Jan 31 Drugs & Alcohol Awareness Parents' Programme

Will take place in the Falls Community Council 275-277 Falls Road. This will look at what drugs look like, signs and symptoms, the effects drugs have, getting help and support. To book a place or for more info: contact [Sharon@fallscouncil.com](mailto:Sharon@fallscouncil.com) Tel 02890 202030

### Feb 1 Building the Community Pharmacy Partnership

Hannahstown Community Association invites you to attend a meeting with the local Seniors Group at 10.30am. Two workshops on health issues, facilitated by local pharmacist Aoife McDowell, will be delivered to the local seniors group on agreed dates. The content of the workshops will be decided by those who attend this preliminary meeting. Your input would be much appreciated.

### Feb 5 World Day for Consecrated Life

To mark World Day for Consecrated Life (2 February 2012) Evening Prayer of the Church will be celebrated at 3.30pm on Sunday, 5 February 2012 in St Brigid's Church, Derryvolgie Avenue, Belfast. There will be an opportunity afterwards to meet over a cup of tea in the nearby parish centre. Invited are people who, in schools and parishes throughout the Diocese, work alongside or have a close association with the Religious of our Diocese.

### A Unique Event

Do you have children? Do you work with young people? Explore how faith plays a role in relationships and discover the best ways to communicate to your child and/or young person about relationships, friendships and decision making.

Choose from ONE of these nights:

- 1 Feb - Belmont Tower, Belmont Road
- 2 Feb - 174 Trust, Antrim Road
- 6 Feb - Millennium Community Outreach Centre, Springfield Road
- 7 Feb - Edgehill Theological College, Lennoxvale

7:30-9:30pm - Refreshments provided

- \* Understand the world of young people
- \* Explore ways of communication
- \* Identify skills in how to listen
- \* Have faith in relationships

To book your place - [info@unique-ni.org](mailto:info@unique-ni.org) 028 38 820 555. For more details & directions to venues visit [www.unique-ni.org](http://www.unique-ni.org) This event is being supported through the Faith Sub Group of the Belfast Area Sexual Health Project Board.

**The Quiet Hour for the Unity of Christians** takes place every Wednesday from 7pm - 8pm in the Adoration Convent. Every third Wednesday of the month there is a **Night Vigil** beginning with Mass at 7pm and concluding with Morning Prayer at 7.00am

### The Legion of Mary

Require female volunteers to help at the Regina Coeli Hostel for homeless women. This involves a weekly meeting on Monday evenings and a two hour duty of weekend work at the hostel. For more info contact Angela Gilroy Tel: 02890 612473

### New Fundraising Initiative for Hannahstown Parish.

Shop Online through [www.saveanddonate.org.uk/hannahstown](http://www.saveanddonate.org.uk/hannahstown) and earn cashback to be split between yourself and Hannahstown Parish.

Register for free at the above website. Shop with hundreds of top brands and you'll be saving and fundraising at no extra cost. All your cashback donations will support the work of the parish - at no cost to you. It's really that simple!

Representatives of Save & Donate will be available at the following Masses to answer your questions and help you register:

- Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hannahstown 6.00pm
- Sun. 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. St Peter's, The Rock, 10.00am
- Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. St. Peter's, The Rock, 7.00pm
- Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. Hannahstown, 11.00am

