



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
8 October 2017

An Affirmation of “SHE”

“**Keep your rosaries off my ovaries**”. During the never-ending campaigns to repeal the 8th amendment, the fore-mentioned pithy slogan made a perfect chant to silence any Catholic who might object to abortion. Its casual irreverence probably only added to the appeal, and guaranteed more coverage, without ever changing the opinion of anybody for or against. Its “success”, if that is the word, is that it suggests that the Rosary and Ovaries are polar opposites, and by extension, Catholicism and Women's freedom are equally at odds. As we are celebrating the month of the Rosary it is perhaps time to look at the model of femininity proposed by the Rosary, and especially the prayer at its heart; the Hail Mary.

Hail Mary, full of Grace

Mary is spoken to by God's messenger by NAME, it implies an essential dignity, there is no condescension, no patronizing epithet, instead she is first spoken to directly, as a person, not as a representative of her gender, or some form of “breeding chamber” a la the successful TV programme “Handmaids”. The encounter is one which acknowledges, that though the message is from God, the **person** receiving the message is also worthy of respect.

The Lord is with you

“**With**” is an interesting word here, the relationship it suggests is similar to Jesus with the Samaritan woman. In that case, the disciples are shocked by his departure from custom that he talks with her, but he does it anyway and treats her as if she were his equal. Here, God is with Mary, it suggests a similar kind of approach, it is a non-aggressive presence “**with**”.

Blessed are you among women

Now Mary is being engaged with as a woman, her gender becomes relevant, but again prepositions are important. You are blessed “**among** woman”, not **in contrast to** all other women, (another translation puts it “Among women you are the **most** blessed”) which better suggests the common bond between Mary and every woman, all of whom are important.

And blessed is the fruit of your womb...

Finally we get to the maternal role that is being offered to Mary, but again note the word “**and**”, Mary has been acknowledged both as a person and a woman, before her role as mother is introduced. “And” is used here NOT “because”, and demands we see her motherhood as being built on the strong foundations of her dignity as a person, and her gender.

It would be wrong to suggest that Our Lady's image has never been used to keep women in a secondary place, and that is what those Rosaries/Ovaries slogans are complaining about. But in their sloganeering they fail to realize that Catholicism is more than their “woman hating stereotype” and that every time we say the Rosary, in all those Hail Marys we are affirming a truth, that it was a woman, respected as a person who, by her free choice, gave us our Lord and Saviour **Jesus**.

Fr Joseph Loftus CM
(Beijing, China)

Email: jloftuscm@olcbeijing.org

Mass Times

Sunday

Saturday vigil 6.30pm, Sunday 8.00am, 10.00am, 11.30am, 2.15pm (African Mass, 1st Sunday of each month), 4.00pm (Indian Mass, 2nd Sunday of each month) & 6.30pm

Monday - Saturday

10.30am (& Monday at 7.00pm followed by Novena, except Bank Holidays)

Holy Days of Obligation

10.30am & 6.30pm

Confessions

Saturday immediately following the 10.30am Mass and at the Parish Office by request

Parish Clergy

Fr Aidan CM - pp@stpetersphibsboro.ie

Fr Ioan CM - fr.ioan@stpetersphibsboro.ie

Parish Office

Monday - Friday

9.30am - 12.30pm

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E: info@stpetersphibsboro.ie

W: www.stpetersphibsboro.ie

Pastoral Office

Ms Kirsten Mahon

T: +353 1 810 2572

E: pastoral@stpetersphibsboro.ie

Monday Novena

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

The Miraculous Medal Novena continues each Monday evening at 7.00pm. All are encouraged to attend.

A Word on the Word

Held Monday's from 7.30pm in the Conference Room (via Parish Office), the sessions take on a new format - *'An Introduction to the Bible, Understanding the Old Testament'*.

Join us as we Pray for Vocations

On Thursday's after Mass the Vincentian Community here in St Peter's invite you to join with them in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations to the Vincentian Community in Ireland.

Legion of Mary

Meetings take place on Monday and Wednesday evenings (ex. Bank Holidays) from 7.00pm in the

Frank Duff Room

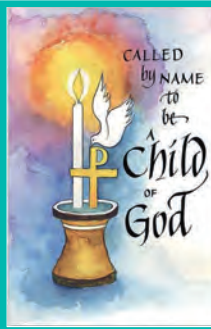
(entrance via Parish Office)

Monday -

Our Lady of All Nations

Wednesday -

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament



Welcome

We welcome into the Catholic Church baby Aoileann Rose Ní Dhonncha who was baptised here in St Peter's in September. We wish her every blessing as she takes her first steps as a new member of our Christian family.

St Peter's Newsletters (& other publications)!!!

It has been brought to our attention recently that some people within the parish and surrounding areas have been receiving our weekly newsletters, among other publications, in the post. We would like to clarify that this has not been instigated by us here at St Peter's. We invite you all to take a copy of our newsletter away with you to read in the comfort of your own homes, but we would ask you not to forward them to others in the area, either by hand or by post, unless you have been specifically asked to do so by individuals themselves. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Sacramental Preparation

This month we begin the journey of Sacramental Preparation towards First Holy Communion and Confirmation with the children from St Peter's National School. They will celebrate the beginning of this journey during the enrolment Masses.

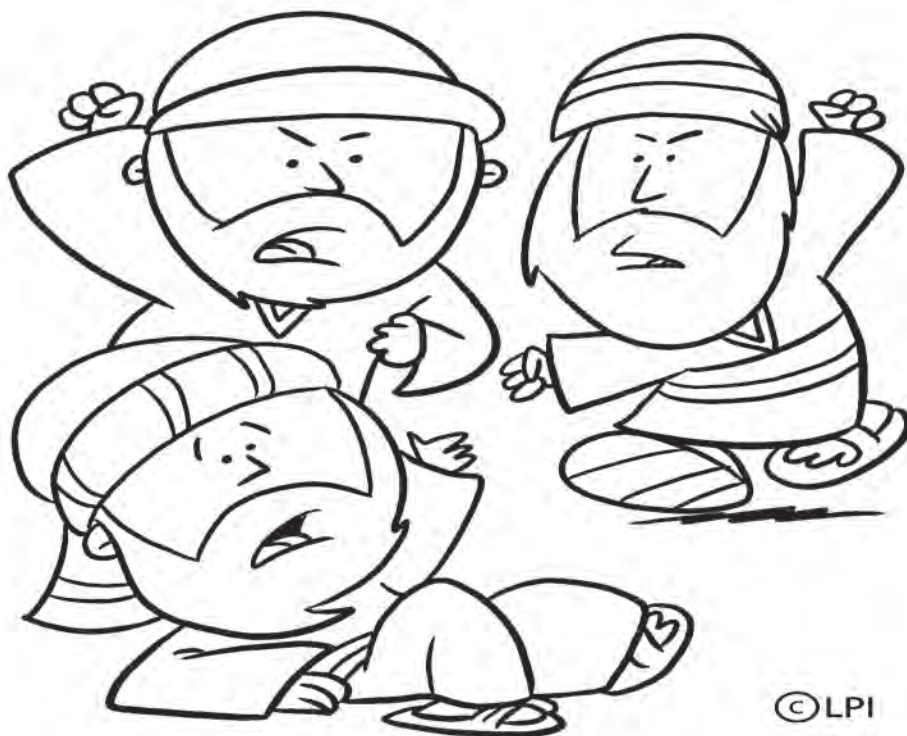
Sunday, 15 October - Communion Enrolment Mass - 11.30am

Sunday, 22 October - Confirmation Enrolment Mass - 11.30am

We ask you to keep them, their families and their teachers in your prayers. We wish them every blessing during this special time.

Phibsboro' Aid

Founded in 1972, **Phibsboro' Aid** provides sheltered accommodation for the senior citizens of Phibsborough and its environs. It is a wholly voluntary organisation. This would not have been possible without the commitment of its volunteers and the backing of the people of Phibsborough. To maintain this work we appeal for your support for our annual collection next weekend and we thank you for your continued generosity.



**St Peter's Parish invites you to
Take Some Time for Yourself
Join us for our Week of Guided Prayer 15 - 21 October 2017**

As places are limited, you will need to register for this in advance.

Please complete and return the registration form,
available at the Church doors, to the Parish Office or Sacristy

on or before Monday, 9 October 2017

Mission Month Events

Sunday, 8 October

Mass for benefactors & returned missionaries: St Joseph's Oratory, St Patrick's College, Maynooth at 2.00pm. Chief Celebrant: Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly. Light refreshments will be available after the Mass. Please RSVP to Fiona Walsh if you wish to attend, email: fiona@wmi.ie or call the office on (01) 497 2035.

Kenyan Exhibition: There will be an exhibition highlighting the work of Irish missionaries to Kenya, spanning 100 years (1916-2016). This exhibition will be on view for those attending the Mass at St Patrick's College.

Friday, 13 October

National Day of Prayer for Children: A country-wide event, with the main celebration coming from Carlow Cathedral. Chief Celebrant: Bishop Denis Nulty. This is the 10th year of the National Day of Prayer. To complement the World Meeting of Families 2018, the theme this year is 'Let's be Family'.

Saturday, 14 October

Miles for Mission: Phoenix Park. Registration online at: www.popupraces.ie but entrants can register on the day from 9.00am at the Papal Cross. World Missions Ireland, in conjunction with the World Meeting of Families, is hosting this annual walk/run. Given the huge numbers of Irish missionaries overseas, we are hoping that this event will be an occasion for families to come together on mission and to help raise funds for missionaries working with very needy families around the world. The 2km family walk begins at 10.00am, while the 5K and 10K events will commence at 10.30am. The Archbishop of Cashel & Emly, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly will be there on the day to join and walk with our missionary families.



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings

Is 5:1-7.

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20, R/ Is 5:7.

Phil 4:6-9.

Mt 21:33-43.

Monday

Bl. John Henry Newman, priest

Ss Denis, bishop & Companions, martyrs

St John Leonardi, priest

Mass with Novena Prayers 7.00pm

Legion of Mary 7.00pm

A Word on the Word 7.30pm

Wednesday

St John XXIII, pope

St Canice, abbot

Legion of Mary 7.00pm

Thursday

Prayer for Vocations directly after Mass

Saturday

St Callistus I, pope & martyr

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Teresa of Avila, virgin & doctor of the Church is not celebrated this year

Readings

Is 25:6-10.

Ps 22:1-6, R/ v 6.

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20.

Mt 22:1-14.

Weekly Collections - 1 Oct

Recent collections amounted to:

Church = €1,748.79

Share = € 420.34

Repairs = € 798.80

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Church Gate Collections

This week's is in aid of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Next week's will be in aid of Phibsboro' Aid. See details on page 2.



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