



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: 19 February 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, 19 February

*Day of Prayer for Temperance*

Brigid Flanagan & her infant son Kody (MM)

Carmel & Sean Flanagan (A)

Sean Sinclair (A)

#### Monday, 20 February

John & Brigid Penston (A)

Michael Mallon (RD)

Gerard Murphy (D)

#### Shrove Tuesday, 21 February

*St Peter Damian, bishop & doctor of the Church*

Antoinette Flanagan (SI)

Gretta Edmonds (A)

Tom Nash (D)

#### Ash Wednesday, 22 February

*The Chair of St Peter, apostle is not celebrated this year*

Theresa Doyle (SI)

Sandra Doyle (GW)

James Devine (A)

Roma Condren (A)

James Keappock (A)

Cillian Boyle (RD)

#### Thursday, 23 February

*St Polycarp, bishop & martyr*

Julie Lawlor (GW)

Bernard Hickey (A)

Jomini Jose (RD)

#### Friday, 24 February

*Worldwide Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse*

Myrtle Allister & Niall Houston (GW)

Mary McCann (A)

Nellie Delaney (10th A)

Henry Hamilton (5th A)

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

#### Saturday, 25 February

Loretto Comaskey (D)

Theo Carberry (D)

### YOU MUST NOT BEAR HATRED FOR YOUR BROTHER IN YOUR HEART (Lev 19)

*You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. Matt 5:38-48*

Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa, in his book 'Long Walk To Freedom' says that during his 27 years of detention in Robben Island, Capetown, he studied carefully the attitudes of those who put him in jail and kept him in jail without any trial. He listened with great interest to their story. He came to understand their fears, their hopes, their passion for rugby, how history had shaped them. Those 27 years of detention without trial, prepared him for the time when he would sit down with them as President of South Africa to negotiate what was best for all the people of South Africa.

He wrote about that time of detention: *if you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.* He had no desire for retaliation or revenge after 27 years of wrongful detention. He used to say: *Holding on to resentment and anger towards your enemy is like drinking poison yourself in the hope that your enemy will die.*

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses the question of how the disciples should conduct themselves when they are faced with opposition, criticism and hatred. He quotes the teaching of the Old Testament: *you have learnt how it was said: an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* But then he adds his own teaching: *but I say to you offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary if any one hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well.*

Love of ones enemies was a revolutionary change from the Old Testament teaching of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Disciples of Jesus must not retaliate for wrongs done to them. The disciples must not allow another person's hostility to determine their response. Their response is to be determined by their discipleship of Jesus. Their response is to do as Christ did. He forgave his executioners while dying on the cross.

To love ones enemies is very difficult. It goes against our nature. The natural response is to lash out or give as good as you get. But to love the enemy we need the grace of God to think big and to be gracious and magnanimous. We have to be gracious and generous in our judgements of people and events. Gordon Wilson was seriously injured in the Enniskillen bomb in November 1987. His daughter Marie died beside him in the rubble of the building. When interviewed later on television he said he forgave those who were responsible for the bomb. It's a very poignant example of the living out of today's gospel message.

Fr Mark Noonan CM

*Lord, we are sorry*

*for what some of us did to your children;*

*treated them so cruelly,*

*especially in their hour of need.*

*We have left them with a lifelong suffering.*

*This was not your plan for them or us.*

*Please help us to help them.*

*Guide us, Lord, Amen.*

Prayer inscribed on the healing stone unveiled at the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in 2012 in Dublin, which now has a permanent home at Lough Derg

### IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Clair McBrearty (formerly of Phibsborough), Collins Akintola (Monck Place) and Fr Roderic Crowley CM (St Paul's, Raheny).

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

### MASS TIMES:

**Mon:** 10.30am & 7pm (Novena to our Lady of the Miraculous Medal)

**Tue to Sat:** 10.30am. **Sun:** vigil 6.30pm (Sat), 8am, 10am, 11.30am

### CONFESSIONS:

**Sat** 11am - 12.30pm and at any other time on request.

**Mon** from 6.30pm onwards

### REPOSITORY:

**(in Office)** Mon to Thurs from 10am to 12.30pm

**(in Church)** Mon evening, Fri morning, Sat evening, Sun morning

A = Anniversary

B = Birthday

BR = Birthday Remembrance

D = Deceased

GW = Get Well

MM = Months Mind

RD = Recently Deceased

SI = Special Intention

W = Wedding

WA = Wedding Anniversary

## LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 19 February 2023

### FIRST READING

#### A reading from the Book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said:

*'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them:*

*"Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.*

*'You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself.*

*You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people.*

*You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'*

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Response: The Lord is compassion and love.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.
3. The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.
4. As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

### SECOND READING

#### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is

foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are: or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, Alleluia!

When anyone obeys what Jesus has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.

Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

#### A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

*'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you:*

*Offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.*

*'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy.*

*But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'*

The Gospel of the Lord.

### LENT: SEASON OF GREAT GRACE

Lent, the forty days when we unite ourselves in body, heart and mind with Jesus in the desert, begins on Wednesday 22nd February, Ash Wednesday. Among the Lenten possibilities the following are proposed:

This week: Mass at 10.30am and 6.00pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. (Blessed ashes will be distributed at both Masses on Ash Wednesday).

**Lenten Prayer** immediately after 10.30am Mass on Thursday (10-15 mins).

**Stations of the Cross** immediately after 6.00pm Mass on Friday at 6.30pm.

### TURKEY & SYRIA

Archbishop Farrell has given approval for a diocesan collection to be taken up in support of the people affected by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. It will take place on the weekend of the First Sunday of Lent, February 25/26. The funds raised will be channelled through Trocaire, who are working with partners in the affected areas. This will replace the SHARE collection.

### COLLECTIONS - Sunday 12 February

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = €1,093.77

Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments) = € 513.20

Accord (2nd Collection) = € 476.01

Thank you for your support to the parish.

### RESPONSES AT MASS

Leaflets are now available for those wishing to familiarise themselves with Mass responses in English. Please collect one in the Sacristy.

### PATRICIAN ON ST BRIGID

The Patrician is a wonderful way to build up knowledge of our Catholic faith. The topic this month is 'St Brigid'. There will be a brief paper on St Brigid, then we gather to talk (or listen) about what we've heard. We have a cup of tea and light refreshments mid-way and resume with a paper from Fr Cornelius CM on the topic. Everyone is very welcome to come along on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm in St Peter's Club. The Patrician is organised by the Legion of Mary.

### SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is marked annually as the day before Ash Wednesday. It comes from the word 'shrive' which means to absolve and is seen as an opportunity to confess to sins before the beginning of Lent. The celebration falls exactly 47 days before Easter Sunday.

