



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Lent: 12 March 2023

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, 12 March

Thomas O'Sullivan (GW)  
Joe McMahon (MM)  
Mick Breslin (2nd A)  
Thomas Brennan (A)  
Elizabeth Brady (A)  
Neville Borgona (RD)  
Tom Larkin (RD)

#### Monday, 13 March

*Anniversary of the election in 2013 of Pope Francis as Supreme Pastor of the Church*

Mary Ellen Mooney (A)  
Michael Ryan (D)

#### Tuesday, 14 March

Niall Jordan (A)  
Evelyn Dowdall (A)

#### Wednesday, 15 March

Thanksgiving  
John Sutton (A)  
Charles, Kathleen & Carmel Gallagher (A)  
Delia O'Keeffe (D)

#### Thursday, 16 March

Franco Brooks (A)  
John Kelly (A)  
Delia O'Keeffe (D)

#### Friday, 17 March

*St Patrick, Bishop, Principal Patron of Ireland*

Pat & Rose Hunter (A)  
Cora & Christy Campbell (A)  
John Kelly (A)  
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)  
Delia O'Keeffe (D)

#### Saturday, 18 March

*St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop & doctor of the Church*

Mary Jane Kelly (BR)  
John Brady (A)

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

### THE WATER OF LIFE AND ST PATRICK'S DREAM

Water is precious, essential. To have good drinking water is a great gift. Providing a plentiful supply is hard work, and cannot be done cheaply. The Samaritan Woman of today's Gospel (John 4) could tell us the cost. There are several aqueducts still standing from the era when the Roman Empire channelled water to big cities. St Patrick as a slave (16 - 22yrs old) on Slemish had different sources; he tells us that he came through rain, snow, and frost on the windy mountain slopes.

#### Scripture

Water in the Bible is recognised as necessary for all life. It is applied as a symbol in the spiritual sense of divine life in the soul. The 1st Reading (Exodus 17) recounts the miraculous flow of water after Moses had struck the rock in the desert. In the Gospel Jesus in dialogue with the Woman of Samaria develops the theme of water as representing God's grace and life: "living water" is his gift, "welling up to eternal life" (John 4:10,14). The woman is impressed; she has family and marital problems, but she goes to her home, and invites many villagers to hear Jesus. She becomes a disciple, even a missionary; now she gets deep consolation, compassion and new energy for life's cares.

Many people have great needs. Often there are no easy answers. St Paul in the 2nd Reading (Romans 5), speaks of Jesus saving humankind from the evil of sin, the greatest of all woes.

#### Travelling with St Patrick

When our national patron escaped and was peacefully restored to his people in Britain, he had a dream in which he read a letter from Ireland. "This is the voice of the Irish. We ask you, youth, to come and walk once more among us" (*Confession 23*). As with Moses, Paul, and the Samaritan Woman, Patrick had many tribulations to face. Ireland had barely been touched by Christianity; but our apostle with Papal appointment, by prayer, immense energy, great kindness, incessant travels, preaching, setting up local churches, and bishoprics, and so on, reaped enormous success. There were vast numbers of conversions, widespread rejection of paganism, a multitude of vowed religious, and a total new situation and way of life. The foundation of Catholic culture by St Patrick over 1,500 years ago is seen in many saintly people today.

Our Church, respecting all people, is a light of truth and sound compassion going forward. The power of Christ and deep belief of great people is the 'living water' of God. Now is not a time for despair but of fervent hope and charity. Let us go forward in the spirit of St Patrick's *Confession*, one of the greatest spiritual classics of all time. This authentic Life (merely 24 pages) can transform Ireland - again.

Fr Eamon Flanagan CM

### IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Linda O'Neill (Phoenix Care Centre, NCR).

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.**

### PARISH RETREAT...

in preparation for Holy Week and Easter  
**Saturday 1st April, 3.00pm - 6.30pm**

An opportunity to take time, make space and reflect on the central mystery of our Catholic Faith, the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our God and Saviour. This will be a silent retreat with a brief introduction at 3.00pm.

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.

His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water'.

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?'

Jesus replied

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again:

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life'.

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.'

'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman.

'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews.

But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth:

that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything'. 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them.

He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman,

'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**LENTEN SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK**

**Masses**

- Monday - 10.30am & 7.00pm
- Tuesday - Wednesday 10.30am & 6.00pm
- Thursday - 10.30am & **6.30pm (Vigil Mass for St Patrick's Day)**
- Friday - **(St Patrick's Day) 10.30am only**

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

**Stations of the Cross** immediately after the 6.30pm Mass on **Thursday (instead of Friday)** at 7.00pm approximately



**RESPONSES AT MASS**

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

**COLLECTIONS - Sunday 5 March**

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online)	=	€1,291.01
Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments)	=	€ 992.20
Share (2nd Collection)	=	€ 380.89

Thank you for your support to the parish.