



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 19 March 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 19 March

Laetare Sunday

Marie Finnegan (1st A)
Josephine Manscier (BR)
Anne Murray (D)
Alcock & Sidley Families (D)

Monday, 20 March

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Adrienne Grant (Retirement)
Edward & Eileen Stokes & Family (SI)
Fr Aidan McGing CM (A)
Margaret Devine (A)
Carmel Madden (A)

Tuesday, 21 March

St Enda, abbot

Wendy Robinson RIP - Funeral

Michael Byrne (MM)
Paul Deegan (A)
Nora Scully (A)

Wednesday, 22 March

Thanksgiving
Gerard Dromey (D)

Thursday, 23 March

St Turibius of Mongrovejo, bishop

Sheila O'Beirne (A)
Philip O'Reilly (D)

Friday, 24 March

St Macartan, bishop

Michael Gill (A)
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Saturday, 25 March

The Annunciation of the Lord

Myra Wall (1st A)
Fr Jim McCormack CM (A)
Henry Butler (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

GOD DOES NOT SEE AS MAN SEES

Today's readings are about blindness and not seeing. In the First Reading the prophet Samuel, inspired by God's spirit, chose the youngest of the family of Jesse to be king of Israel. He was an unlikely choice. *God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.* In the Gospel reading Jesus cures a man who had been blind from birth. Jesus brings him from physical and spiritual blindness to belief and worship.

So it is with us. God brings us to himself in spite of our blindnesses. There are many blindnesses in life. There is our inability to see ourselves as others see us. Sometimes there is our inability to see a point of view different from our own. Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, the Gaelic football commentator was asked in an interview on his 70th birthday what was the greatest learning of his life. He replied: *that there is always a taobh eile*; always another side. Sometimes we can be blind to the other side, to another point of view.

The message of today's Gospel is very clear. Jesus brought the man born blind to a new life. He was healed of his physical blindness; he could see again. He was also cured of his spiritual blindness. He came to know the Lord. He believed in Jesus and he worshipped him. The same is true for each one of us, with the grace of God. We can be healed of our blindnesses and we can come to know Jesus.

Fr Mark Noonan CM

LENTEN SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK

Masses

Monday	-	10.30am & 7.00pm (Novena)
Tuesday	-	10.30am & 6.00pm
Wednesday	-	10.30am & 6.00pm
Thursday	-	10.30am & 6.00pm
Friday	-	10.30am & 6.00pm

Lenten Reflection after the 10.30am Mass on Thursday (10 - 15 mins)

Stations of the Cross after the 6.00pm Mass on Friday

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.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 19 March 2023

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Samuel

The lord said to Samuel,

'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.'

When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought,

'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him',

but the Lord said to Samuel,

'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.'

Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, *'The Lord has not chosen these.'*

He then asked Jesse,

'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered,

'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.'

Then Samuel said to Jesse, *'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.'*

Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said,

'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.'

At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,

rise from the dead,

Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

anyone who follows me will have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL (Shorter Form)

A reading from the Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one'. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath'. Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind'.

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?'

Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.

TRÓCAIRE

Trócaire is the international aid agency of the Catholic Church in Ireland. During Lent we are encouraged to support the work of Trócaire in countries where there is greatest hardship and suffering by donating to Trócaire's relief and rebuilding efforts. Although we are living in times when the cost of living is high we may be able to support Trócaire with proceeds raised by any of our Lenten sacrifices. Envelopes are available at the Shrine to the Vincentian Founders (Ss Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, and Blessed Frederic Ozanam) on the Sacred Heart Side of the Church. Thank you.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Wendy Robinson (NCR), James Quinn (Phibsboro') and Jayne Moran (formerly of Phibsboro').

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.**

ST JOSEPH

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a "just" man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. When the Bible speaks of God "justifying" someone, it means that God, the all-holy or "righteous" one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God's own holiness, and hence it is really "right" for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not. By saying Joseph was "just," the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

As the Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Sunday this year it will be transferred to Monday 20 March instead. Masses are at 10.30am and 7.00pm (Novena).

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 12 March

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online)	=	€1,394.92
Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments)	=	€ 357.70
Share (2nd Collection)	=	€ 300.89

Thank you for your support to the parish.