



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

First Sunday of Lent: 18 February 2024

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, 18 February

Sean Sinclair (A)  
John & Bridget Penston (A)  
Mary Gargan (A)  
Tommie & Mary Donnelly (A)  
Peter & Kathleen Donlon (A)  
Sheila Dougan (RD)  
Michael & Larry O'Sullivan (D)

#### Monday, 19 February

*The anniversary of the episcopal ordination of His Eminence Seán Brady, 19 February 1995*

Margaret McHugh (A)  
James Fyfe (A)  
Sean & Helen Gallagher (D)

#### Tuesday, 20 February

Thanksgiving  
Ivor Beresford (SI)  
Redmond Family (SI & D)  
Fr Ruane (RD)  
Bruce Baker (RD)  
Holy Souls

#### Wednesday, 21 February

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

Gretta Edmonds (A)  
Nellie Delaney (A)  
Henry Hamilton (A)

#### Thursday, 22 February

*The Chair of St Peter, Apostle*

Roma Condren (D)

#### Friday, 23 February

*St Polycarp, bishop & martyr*

Maura Moloney (1st A)  
Bernard Hickey (A)  
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)  
Mary Cave (D)

#### Saturday, 24 February

Marion Grehan (SI)  
Grace Hickey (B)

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

This is the first Sunday in the holy season of Lent. The word *Lent* comes from the German word for Spring which is Lencten. So today we begin our personal, spiritual spring journey.

Spring is the time when nature begins again. During this season of Lent, we are invited to begin again in our relationship with God. God always allows us to begin again. We can't begin again with human relationships because emotional baggage could get in the way; but we can begin again with God. We are invited during the time of Lent to return to the Lord for he is all tenderness and compassion. It's a gentle invitation which contains no threat or punishment or condition - just a simple invitation, with no strings attached.

*Nearer my God to thee* could be the Christian motto for Lent. God invites us, during Lent, to a closer relationship, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and in other ways.

**Prayer:** to give some time each day to God in prayer.

**Fasting:** Fasting is about getting our inner life in order. A 4<sup>th</sup> century Russian monk said: *fast before the Lord according to your strength; fasting exalts the soul, sanctifies the mind, drives away the demons, and prepares you for God's presence.* Fast from food, fast from little luxuries, fast from things that we don't need. We could also fast from self doubt. We could fast from negativity about ourselves or other people. We could fast from harbouring grudges.

**Almsgiving:** is about other people; Almsgiving is about giving something of our abundance to others, whether it is time, money or goods; almsgiving means to reach out to those living in poverty, to put oneself in the shoes of the other person, to be generous in our judgements, to be tolerant of difference.

The Ash Wednesday ashes on our forehead, reminds us that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. The purpose of the ashes is to remind us that life is short. The ashes remind us of our mortality and forces us to look at our priorities. The ashes remind us of what is important in life. *God is first, you are second and I am third.* The ashes on our forehead is a public acknowledgement that we are far from perfect, but are called to something greater with God.

Fr Mark Noonan CM

### LENT

#### Remedies for sin

One of these is almsgiving or practical generosity. Traditionally during Lent we support the work of Trócaire (Irish for "mercy") which is the Church's charitable organisation working for justice in parts of the world where there is much suffering and hardship. During Lent Trócaire boxes are available for those wishing to contribute to Trócaire's work. Please return your box on Holy Thursday to the Church.

#### Lenten Exercises

There will be two daily Masses Monday to Friday throughout Lent.

Monday: 10.30am & 7.00pm

Tuesday - Friday: 10.30am & 6.30pm

Friday - Stations of the Cross: 7.00pm after evening Mass.

Fr Eamon Devlin CM PP

## LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 18 February 2024

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he

went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe.

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The Word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee.

There he proclaimed the Good News from God.

'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### ACCORD

The Annual Collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will be made at all Masses this weekend. ACCORD, Dublin continues to offer: 1. Marriage Preparation courses, 2. Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in relationships, 3. A Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools.

### IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Sheila Dougan, Olive McConville & Sheila Dunne.

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.

### COLLECTIONS - Sunday 11 February

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online) = €1,107.62

Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments) = € 418.20

Share = € 191.66

SVP (monthly collection) = € 539.26

Thank you for your continued support to the parish and to the diocese.

### PATRICIAN ON 'ST JOSEPH'

There will be a brief paper, then we gather to talk about it, followed by tea and light refreshments. Everyone is very welcome on Tuesday 20th Feb at 7.30pm in St Peter's Club (car park entrance, Cabra Road). The Patrician is organised by the Legion of Mary.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

A Photographic Exhibition will take place later this month in the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Cabra West. It tells the story of female religious congregations since the foundation of the State, '*Daring to Hope*'.

### TRÓCAIRE'S LENTEN CAMPAIGN

On Friday 23rd February at 7.00pm, the Church of the Most Precious Blood will be launching Trócaire's Lenten Campaign. Please check Church noticeboards for more details about these events.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st March at 7.30pm in All Saints Church, Phibsborough Road (beside the Fire Station). The Service is prepared by the Palestinian WDP Committee.

### 'MEMORY NEAR AND FAR'

A new book by Fr Eamon Flanagan C.M. described by Archbishop Dermot Farrell as 'a beautiful collection, with a nice nod to sport and the West of Ireland' is available now.

Fr Flanagan will be in the Repository from 10.45am - 11.30am today (Sunday 18th) to sign copies of his book, priced €5.00.