



# St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

## Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 10 March 2024

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Sunday, 10 March

*(Laetare Sunday)*

Margaret Burke (A)  
Thomas Brennan (A)  
Phyllis, Joe, Judy & Gerry Kirk (A)  
Michael & Larry O'Sullivan (D)  
Holy Souls

#### Monday, 11 March

*St Aengus, bishop & abbot*

*Today is the anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Most Rev. Dermot Farrell, 11 March 2018*

Ashelyn Pereira (B)  
Florence Fyffe (A)  
Holy Souls

#### Tuesday, 12 March

Holy Souls

#### Wednesday, 13 March

*Today is the anniversary of the election in 2013 of Pope Francis as Supreme Pastor of the Church.*

Wendy Robinson (1st A)  
Michael Ryan (A)  
Mary Eileen Mooney (A)  
Holy Souls

#### Thursday, 14 March

Holy Souls

#### Friday, 15 March

Sheila Dougan (MM)  
John Sutton (A)  
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)  
Holy Souls

#### Saturday, 16 March

*First Evening Prayer of St Patrick*

Marion Grehan (SI)  
Jennifer D'Souza (B)  
Mick Breslin (3rd A)  
John Kelly (A)  
Holy Souls

### GOD'S GOODNESS SHOWERING DIGNITY ON HUMANKIND

#### Acknowledgement for gifts and givers in Lent, and always

In today's 1st Reading (2 Chronicles 36) there's recognition of the joyful return of the Jews from exile in Babylon (538 BC). The pagan king, Cyrus of Persia, set them free, thus inaugurating 200 years of peace in the Holy Land.

The 2nd Reading (Ephesians 2) rejoices in God's mercy towards all people through the salvation won by Christ. This gift is grace, taking to heart God's word, making us "a work of art". Jesus in the Gospel (John 3) shows Nicodemus how "God loved the world so much", and sent his Son to save us. We express our esteem for such immense goodness by living in the sun of wisdom and rejoicing "in the light".

#### Going onwards

Our acknowledgement is shown every day. Today, "Rejoice" (Laetare) Sunday gives us a lift at the mid-point of Lent. We honour our Mothers on this special "Day". We think of St Patrick and draw inspiration from his faith, great deeds, and prayer. It is great to be aware of the astounding conviction and consequent living of our Catholic Faith all through history. The early Church Fathers have recorded how this faith, way of life, reality, and fullness unfolded. Here is a glory that shines through the whole world. St John Chrysostom (4th Century) says "This is the Fountain we have, the well-spring of life. This is the banquet-table abounding with good things past number. To this we must go with hearts unfeigned and pure conscience." This Source is as powerful and relevant now in the 21st century as when the saint's words were written.

Fr Eamon Flanagan CM

### LENT

#### Vincentians Journeying Through Lent

Come and join The Vincentian Family each Sunday through Lent to reflect with them through Scripture, Music and Meditation. Continues Sunday, 3 March 4.30pm - 5pm. Log onto: [www.vincentianfamily.ie](http://www.vincentianfamily.ie) and click **JOIN THE MEETING**.

#### Lenten Retreat...

... on Saturday 23rd March from 3.00pm - 6.30pm in preparation for Holy Week. This will be a silent retreat in the Church and in the Presbytery and grounds of St Peter's. All are welcome to come and spend some quiet time in prayer and reflection. Retreat begins with a short introduction at 3.00pm in 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.

## LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 10 March 2024

### FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem.

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, *'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'*

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: *'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."*

The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards

us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

*'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.'*

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world

men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.

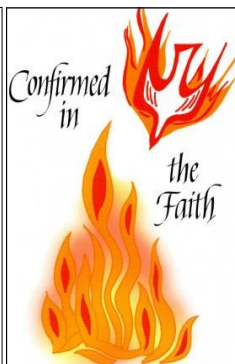
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Martin Ryan and Maureen Dalton.

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.**



### CONFIRMATION

For pupils from 5th and 6th class in St Peter's National School will take place on Friday next 15th March at 11.30am. Thanks to all the teachers in St Peter's NS and parish catechists who have worked with the young people and their parents in preparation for this sacrament which brings to them the gifts and fruits of the Spirit of God.

### COLLECTIONS - Sunday 3 March

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Online)	=	€1,427.07
Envelopes (Online/Easy Payments)	=	€ 552.20
Share	=	€ 316.21

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

The collection for the Society of St Vincent de Paul takes place on the 2nd Sunday of each month.



### EASTER CARDS

Mass Cards €10.00 & Novena Cards €5.00 available now from the Repository (former Parish Office).

### ST PATRICK'S DAY...

... falls on Sunday next 17th March. Mass times will be the same as for weekends:

**Vigil - 6.30pm (Saturday)**  
**Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am & 11.30am**