



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Lent: 30 March 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 30th March

Jack Corbett (1st A)
Kathleen & Peter Donlon (A)

Monday, 31st March

Ann Marie Hughes (A)
Annie & Frances Hughes (D)
Philip Murray (BR)
John Connolly (SI)

Tuesday, 1st April

Michael Conneely (RD)
Maureen Dennehy (RD)
Maureen Kelleher (RD)
Rosetta O'Neill (BR)

Wednesday, 2nd April

Frances Naughton (McCann) (1st A)

Thursday, 3rd April

Madge & Sean O'Hehir (A)

Friday, 4th April

First Friday
Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)
Fr Joseph Haugh (A)
Carmel Strickland (1st A)

Saturday, 5th April

Danielle (Lynch) McCann (RD)



MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

31st March - 5th April

Monday:

10.30am and 7.00pm

Tuesday to Saturday:

10.30am and 6.30pm

(Stations of the Cross after
6.30pm Mass Friday)

THE PRODIGAL SON

What a great parable Luke recalls for us here. It follows two other parables on finding something that was lost, the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost drachma. Now we have a lost son...or maybe...two lost sons!

The scene opens with the younger son demanding his inheritance from his father. This tells us a lot about the son. He regards his father as dead, or as good as dead. He can't wait, he wants to enjoy "the good life" now. He gets his inheritance and within a few days he is gone. Let the good times roll! The party begins now! And of course, the inevitable happens, he comes a cropper and loses everything. It gets so bad that he even envies the pigs the husks they are eating. How low can you get! But for all he has lost...he now focuses on what he has left. All his worldly goods have gone, he doesn't have enough to eat, all his so called friends from the days of partying have disappeared, but he remembers that he has a father who loves him more than all the possessions of this world. Now that he is not distracted by the falseness of his partying, he sees what really matters. He went off to find the good life, but was living in a dead world. Now he sees clearly, now he is alive again. He was dead but is now back in the real world.

This is a parable about death and resurrection. We can choose to run after the things of this world or we can choose love. The love the father shows to the son is what reaches down to the very core of the son's being, when he is at his lowest point. This is the point. No matter how far we stray, the love of God can pierce the gloom and touch our hearts. In saying yes to God we are reborn and not even death can stand in our way.

We see too the other son. The one that stayed behind and did "the right thing". But he too got lost. He got lost in the trappings of a comfortable life. He watched the money accumulate nicely. He too has died to the love of those around him. He has written off his brother and for him, his father has morphed into the boss on the farm. He is not at all happy to see his brother back again...because it meant the loss of a calf for the celebration party! He has hit rock bottom too!

Again, it's the father to the rescue! Coming away from the celebration for the younger son, he gently opens the heart of the elder son to the love that he has for them both.

The two sons have disordered passions for the things of this world. The father's love shows them that there is something far greater, a love that is stronger than anything this world has to offer. This parable, which Jesus gives to us through Luke, tells us of this love which the Father has. This is God's offer of hope and of Heaven. Abandon the empty pleasures of this world and focus on the celebration in Heaven.

Fearghas de Stok

ONLINE - LENTEN TALKS

WEEK 4 (30th March) - THE PRODIGAL SON - Fearghas de Stok

www.vincentianfamily.ie

This week

- Monday - weekly Mass and Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal takes place at 7.00pm.
- Friday next 4th April is the first Friday of the month. The elderly infirm and housebound of the parish will be attended with the Sacraments.

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 30th March 2025

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua,

'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you'.

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day.

From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: **Taste and see that the Lord is good**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation.

In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

I will leave this place and go to my father and say:

'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and the sinners, meanwhile, were all seeking his company to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained.

'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.

So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father,

"Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me."

So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said,

"How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants."

So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said,

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

I no longer deserve to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants,

"Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found."

And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about.

"Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound."

He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father,

"Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

The father said,

"My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 23rd March

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Tap/Online/Payzone) = €1,406.39

Envelopes (incl. Online/Payzone) = € 510.00

Share (2nd Collection) = € 332.11

Thank you for your support to the parish and to the Diocese.

EASTER CARDS

Mass Cards €10 & Novena Cards €5 available this week from the Parish Office and Repository.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in your prayers all those who died recently especially Danielle (Lynch) McCann.

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.**

ADORATION - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place after Saturday 10.30am Mass (**except if there is a funeral**).