



They had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread"

It may surprise you to learn that the Season of Easter is the longest Season in the Church's year. It lasts for 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, longer than the six weeks of Lent, Advent and the Season of Christmas. This shows the importance that the Church gives to this time of the year which is highlighted by our recent Gospel readings recording the post resurrection appearances of the Risen Lord. In our Gospel today, the disciples have just left Jerusalem and are on their way back home. As far as they are concerned, with the death of Jesus their dreams have been shattered, and they are returning to their previous lives. But then, unexpectedly, they meet Jesus even though they do not recognise him. The artist Caravaggio is probably best known to us for his painting The Taking of Christ which was discovered in a Jesuit residence on Leeson Street and is now on display in our National Gallery. His is also known for painting called The Supper at Emmaus. In the picture, there is nobody sitting in the space immediately opposite Jesus which is, I think an invitation for all of us to be part of it. What particularly struck me about the painting is the reaction of one of the Disciples as Jesus breaks the bread. He leans forward towards Jesus with his hands forcefully grasping the arms of his chair - almost lifting him out of it - as he stares intently at Jesus and his expression is one of absolute incredulity and amazement. Because the artist has captured the moment that this Disciple recognised the Risen Lord as the bread is broken. Because they met Jesus and, through the knowledge they have gained by the encounter, the disciples are given the courage to return to Jerusalem to share the good news of the resurrection with their community. The Eucharist is at the centre of the Emmaus story. In his encyclical on the Eucharist Saint John Paul II invites us to be amazed by this altogether special and unique element of God's love for us. He tells us that the gift of the Eucharist evokes profound amazement and gratitude. Every day Jesus can be speaking to us to us directly through prayer and reflection or through what we read or people we meet. But, just like the disciples, we don't recognise him either. Let us pray for a listening heart so that we

can be ready to respond to the Lord in whatever way he may choose to approach us. Today's Gospel is the last part of the Gospel of Saint Luke who, of course, went on to write The Acts of the Apostles which can be called the second volume of his Gospel. It is the story of the Road to Emmaus and, in a later section, we are told that: "*The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.*" This Easter may we journey together in faith as the disciples did on the road to Emmaus and may we be strengthened and encouraged as they were by our encounter with the Risen Lord.

Deacon Gerard



POPE LEO'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION

Father, teach us as a community to care for our priests: to listen without judging, to give thanks without demanding perfection, and to accompany them with closeness and sincere prayer. May we support those who so often support us. Holy Spirit, rekindle in our priests the joy of the Gospel. Grant them healthy friendships, networks of fraternal support, a sense of humour when things don't go as expected, and the grace to always rediscover the beauty of their vocation. May they never lose trust in You, nor the joy of serving your Church with a humble and generous heart. Amen

EASTER DUES may be left in the safes in the Church or handed in to the Parish Office or Sacristy. Sincere thanks to all those who have already contributed to this important collection for the common fund which supports all our active, sick and retired priests throughout the year.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY COLLECTION
Will take place after all Masses
Saturday/ Sunday, 18th /19th April

COLLECTIONS

Common Fund	€1293
Share	€ 890

Sincere thanks for your support

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

John Cassidy, Woodlands

Michael Ryan, Carrickhill Rise

Bridie Mannix, Carrickhill Drive

Josephine Burns, Carrickhill Drive

Saturday, 6.30p.m.

Cathal Cryan,[2nd A]; Patrick Morris,[A];

Paul Carolan,[5th A]; Richard Fahy.[A];

Kay Muphy,[Bth Rem]

Sunday, 10.30a.m.

For the People of the Parish

Sunday, 12 noon

Shane O'Brien,[A]; Anne Heaney,[Bth Rem];

Noreen Fnnegan,[Bth Rem]; Des Keane,[A];

Paul O'Dwyer,[A]; Pat Niland, [A];

John David Mc Cartin,[4th A].



CELEBRATION OF FIRST PENANCE

20th April 2026 at 2.30p.m.
St. Helen's JNS

13th May 2026 at 2.30p.m.
'St. Marnock's JNS

Parents who wish their child to celebrate the Sacrament of First Penance please arrive at the Church at 2.30p.m. Please ensure each child be accompanied by an adult – Parent/Grandparent/Guardian. There will be a number of priests present on each day to assist with the

Celebration of First Penance.

Families should continue to attend the **Family Mass** each **Sunday at 10.30a.m.**

as it is important preparation for receiving the Sacraments.



DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, APRIL 25TH 2026

A bus for the Partnership Parishes - Portmarnock, Malahide, Yellow Walls and Kinsealy, will be

travelling to Knock. Leaving St. Anne's Car Park at 7.30a.m. on Saturday, 25th April, the bus will collect Pilgrims at St Sylvester's Malahide and Sacred Heart, Yellow Walls. Cost is €65 pp payable on booking, and will include dinner on the way home. Please contact Pauline at 087 6293744

PORTMARNOCK

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

13th - 18th September

Contact Pauline Geoghegan, 0876293744

Spiritual Director: Canon John Flaherty

MEDUGORJE GROUP PILGRIMAGES

3rd to 10th JUNE 2026

contact Derek + Anne Farrell

Mobiles : 0862573824 + 0879224077 .

Spiritual Director : Fr. Christopher Nkole.

29TH JULY – 5TH AUGUST 2026

contact Teresa McCabe 087 206 9249

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Roland Nfambang & Fr Omodunbi



CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

We thank Archbishop Farrell for celebrating the Sacrament of

Confirmation for the children of St. Marnock's SNS, on Friday last. Congratulations to the families and teachers who prepared the children for Confirmation.

CONFIRMATION FOR ST. HELEN'S SNS

will be celebrated on **Thursday, 23rd April 2026 at 11.00a.m.** Car Park will only be available for those attending the Ceremony. Car park will open at 9.30a.m.

pieta
Darkness
into
light



Pieta's annual Darkness Into Light Walk takes place on **Saturday 9th May at 4:45am at Malahide Castle.**

We hope you can join us for the most important sunrise of the year, raising vital funds for Pieta's services. Last year, the funds raised contributed to 100,000. Helpline calls and texts and 41,000 counselling hours for Adults and Children in need of support. Please register at

www.darknessintolight.ie