

“HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WHO ARE POOR: YOURS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Our Gospel today, the Sermon on the Plain in Luke corresponds to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Jesus presents us with a vision of society that is almost the exact opposite of what we would expect. He tells us: *“How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven.”* The message here is that God’s ways are not our ways and that he looks at things differently to the way we do. I am reminded of the tremendous emphasis that Pope Francis puts on the poor. He frequently visits and meets with those who are not well off and has recently provided facilities for the homeless near St Peter’s Square. He recently opened a Holy Door at a prison in Rome to mark the beginning of the Jubilee Year. One way that we can assist the poor is to contribute to the Society of St Vincent de Paul or another charity that helps the homeless. Our Gospel today turns things around from our contemporary culture, and we are told that it is the poor that will inherit the Kingdom. In our second reading, St Paul makes a dramatic statement. He tells us that: *“If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.”* But he goes on to assure us that: *“Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.”* Pope Francis tells us: *“Paradise is the embrace of God, infinite Love, and we enter thanks to Jesus, Who died on the cross for us. Where there is Jesus, there is mercy and happiness.”* I think this is a very good way of thinking about it. We believe that those who have gone before us to God remain with us in spirit. They are absent but not gone. I think they are especially present with us at mass and that’s why it is such an important to remember our relatives and friends at anniversary masses which is a wonderful tradition in this parish. Let us pray that we will experience the consolation of God’s presence as we reflect on those people who have inspired, encouraged, and helped us in life. Sometimes our achievements are based on theirs. May they now enjoy the rewards of their goodness and kindness with the Risen Lord in heaven. As we reflect this weekend on St Luke’s “Sermon on the Plain”, let us thank God for the gifts and

blessings of our lives and to pray that we will always be aware of those who are less well-off whether materially or spiritually. And do what we can to assist them. It is our calling as Christians to always reach out to those in need and, like Pope Francis, make it our priority to them our help, **Deacon Gerard.**

COLLECTIONS

Sunday, 9th February

Common Fund € 1620

Share € 955

Sincere thanks for your support.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Carmel Linnane, Beachpark;

Kathleen White, Strandmill Ave;

Sheelagh Kerr, Strand Road

Saturday 15th February 6.30p.m.

Tom Comey, [Month’s Mind]; Seannie Byrne, [Bth Rem]

Kevin, Patrick, Winifred Mannion, [A].

Sunday, 16th February 10.30a.m. Jimmy Mannix, [Bth

Rem]; Fr Tommy Curran, [A]. 12 noon Paul

McKee, [Month’s Mind]; Sarri Leahy, [11th A];

Jimmy Mannix, [Bth Rem]; Fr. Tommy Curran, [A].

Kitty & Bernie Walsh, [A]; Seannie Byrne, [Bth Rem]

34TH DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE

RDS, DUBLIN

21ST, 22ND, 23RD FEBRUARY

WWW.DIVINEMERCYCONFERENCE.COM



CELEBRATING ST. LAURENCE O'TOOLE.

Diocesan Pilgrimage for the 800th anniversary of the canonisation of St Laurence O’Toole, May 10 to May 12, 2025. Three-day pilgrimage with Fr Ivan Tonge and

Canon John Flaherty led by Archbishop Farrell. Booking and closes soon. Contact Marian Pilgrimages, 01 8788159.

ACCORD COLLECTION

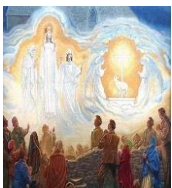
The annual collection for Accord the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will be made at all Masses this weekend.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Often in our culture, the Church's teachings on marriage and family life are presented in a negative tone. Yet the basics of family life and love are what so many in our world dream of and seek to realise.



For over 60 years our diocesan agency for marriage and relationship care, Accord Dublin, has been there to support people, young and old, realise this dream. It does not work with a rulebook, but helps people find within themselves the ability to discern, to look at their own attitudes and relationships, and to see them in a different way, in the light of the message of Jesus Christ. In primary and secondary schools, Accord Dublin helps students acquire an understanding of healthy human relationships and sexuality through its RSE programmes. Couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship and prepare their future lives together through Accord Dublin's marriage education programmes. And when times get tough, Accord Dublin's counselling service is there to help individuals and couples explore, reflect upon and positively resolve any relationship difficulties they may be experiencing so that they and their families can live happy, healthy lives again. Accord Dublin's marriage and relationship services are open to everyone in need. Feedback from people who have experienced the services have been consistently very positive year in, year out. With the pressures of our world and society, we know that couples and families are struggling day to day. The services of Accord Dublin are needed more now than ever. It is for this reason that I ask you to support the work of Accord Dublin at this annual collection and to spread the word to all in need that Accord Dublin is there for them. I pray for God's blessing on you and your families .+Dermot Farrell Archbishop of Dublin

**DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE
KNOCK 2025**



Saturday 26th April Leaving St. Anne's Church at 7.30am. Stopping at the Grenville Arms each way. Dinner included €55.00. Deposit of €25 to Parish Office or Pauline Geoghegan at 087 6293744

**THE DUBLIN ARCHDIOCESAN
PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11th February, 2025
Prayers and greetings to all in our Diocese from Lourdes, where a small Dublin group is representing the Diocesan Pilgrimage for the **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, World Day of the Sick**. All of your Intentions are being remembered by us at the Grotto, especially those who are sick and those who care for them. As the recently appointed Director of the Pilgrimage I am very grateful for the support our sick pilgrims have received throughout the years from so

many people in the parishes of the Diocese. Those who have organised and supported our Associate Membership throughout the years are being specially remembered by us in Lourdes with heartfelt gratitude. Some early details of our **2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrimage**: The dates are **4th to 9th September 2025**, led by Archbishop Farrell. The Pilgrimage is a fully escorted tour including: direct return flight from Dublin to Lourdes, airport transfers and assistance between Lourdes Airport and the hotels, five nights' accommodation, meals, 20kg check-in luggage plus one small personal item in the cabin and full services of Joe Walsh Tours guides and representatives throughout. **FURTHER INFORMATION** info@joewalshstours.ie or phone Dublin: 01 241 0800. About **100 Sick or Assisted Pilgrims** will form a very important section of our Pilgrimage. **Accueil Notre Dame**, the special place of welcome for the Sick located in the Shrine opposite the Grotto, will house our Sick Pilgrims. A dedicated Team of Doctors, Nurses, Chaplains and several hundred Helpers of all ages will travel with us from Dublin to care for our Assisted Pilgrims from their arrival at Dublin Airport, during their time in the Lourdes and until they depart the airport on our return. **Enquiries about travelling as a Sick/Assisted Pilgrim should be made to the Pilgrimage Office, 51 Home Farm Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, D09 W5W4. Deirdre Daly, Administrative Secretary, info@lourdes.dublindiocese.ie / 01 8087555 or to John Flaherty, john.flaherty@dublindiocese.ie / 01808557.** Every good wish and blessing from Lourdes. *Canon John Flaherty, Pilgrimage Director.*

**Portmarnock Parish
LOURDES**

4 NIGHTS DEPARTING FROM DUBLIN
Spiritual Director
Canon John Flaherty

3* Hôtel San Sauveur
17th - 21st June 2025
€820 pps



FLIGHTS - TRANSFERS - HOTEL - GUIDE

Contact: Pauline Geoghegan at 087 6293744