

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

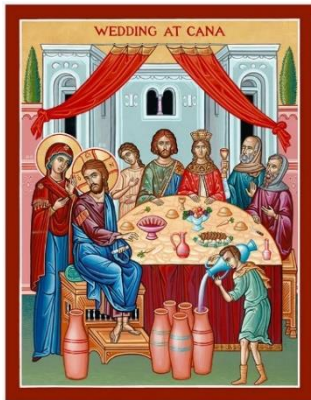
is observed from the **18th to the 25th January** – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

From Deacon Gerard:

The story of the Wedding at Cana is the first act of ministry by Jesus in St John's Gospel. It's a familiar story to many of us and is often read at wedding ceremonies. St John, the beloved

disciple, is someone who was especially close to Jesus. He is referred to in the gospel as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved*". I'm sure that he drew inspiration for his writing from his personal experiences of Jesus throughout his ministry. St John recalls the words of Jesus when he explained that his love for us mirrors God the Father's love for his son. And he has only one request for us and that is that we should keep his commandments. It is said that when St John was an old man, he would always tell people to "*love one another*." The marriage imagery puts all the emphasis on love, and this is frequently present in this Gospel. "*Do whatever he tells you*"



These words of Our Lady in this Gospel story are often used to describe the intercessory power of the mother of God for us with her Son. We are encouraged to pray to Our Lady, and she will then pray for us to her son Jesus and ask that our requests are heard. In the Angelus prayer we say: "*Pray for us O holy mother of God, that we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.*"

In the apparition at Knock, we see Our Lady directing us towards her Son who is represented as a lamb on the altar. St John is also present at Knock and is seen preaching from a book, perhaps his own Gospel, showing the importance of communicating the word of God to others.

This Gospel today is also about marriage. Marriage is not only a private but also a very public commitment. This sacrament gives the couple God's grace and support to be faithful to what they are promising here today. We live in a world where commitment is not highly prized. Christian marriage is a sign to the community of faithful love which contradicts so much in our contemporary culture. Marriage reflects Christ's love for us and mirrors the faithfulness of God for his people. That love is not just the love spoken of by poets and pop songs but the self-sacrificing love of the one who gave his life for us. Whether married or not, people today are very concerned about Wi-Fi and ensuring that their phones and iPads are always connected with the internet. It is of much greater importance that we are connected to God and to listen to his Word and take inspiration from it. If we do this, it will immensely enhance our experience of life, of love and ultimately of God. This Sunday, as we recall the marriage at Cana, let us pray for all married couples, for those preparing for marriage, for separated people and for those who have lost a spouse. May we all be inspired by their efforts to live good Christian lives.



CONGRATULATIONS TO AISLINN NI UALLACHAIN (BRIAR WALK) AND NOEL AUNGIER WHO WERE MARRIED YESTERDAY IN TRINITY COLLEGE CHAPEL BY CANON JOHN.

COLLECTIONS

Sunday, 12 January 2025

Common Fund € 1651
Share € 1005

Sincere thanks for your support.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased
Paul McKee, Station Road
Greta Mulroy, Elnor Court

Saturday, 18th January 6.30p.m.

Sr. Maria Kenny, [RD], Fran Stacey, [3rd A];
Kevin Rogers, [5th A]; Bridie Rogers, [Rem];
Walter & Gertrude Maguire, [A]; Margaret Creane, [8th A]

Sunday, 19th January

10.30a.m.:

Evelyn Rodgers, late of Portmarnock Walk [RD 15 Dec];
John Byrne, [40th A]; Olive Kennedy, [A].

12 noon: Mick Hession, [30th A]; Marian Murphy, [21 A];
Diarmuid O'Connor, [10th A]; Marie Power, [A];
John & Florrie Finnegan, [A]; Evelyn Dowling, [Rem]

REQUIEM CHOIR

The Parish Requiem Choir invites new members.
Choir meets every second Tuesday morning at the
Church. Please contact Tony O'Dwyer, Organist,
after Sunday Mass

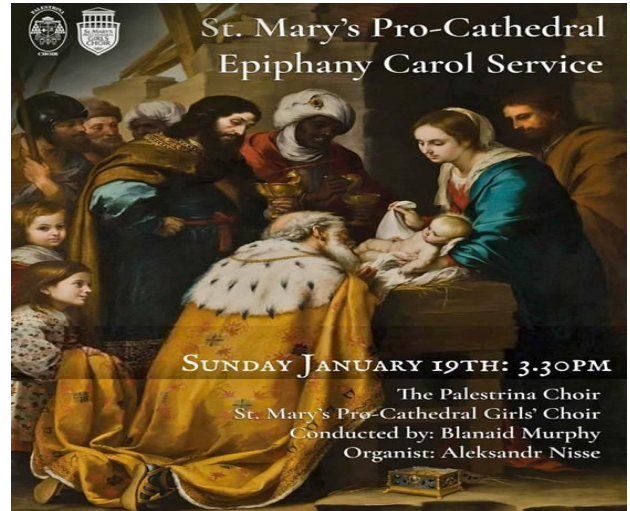
PORTMARNOCK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

is proud to present the premiere performance of
AN ORIGINAL CHORAL COMPOSITION by composer
and former PCS student, **Dermot Doyle**. Featuring
the **PCS Senior Choir and soloists, directed by Ms
Colette O' Driscoll**, will take place on **Wednesday,
22nd January, at 7:30 PM at Portmarnock
Community School**. Tickets available through
Eventbrite.



**DIOCESAN
PILGRIMAGE TO
KNOCK – SATURDAY APRIL
26TH** The theme of the
pilgrimage will focus on the
Jubilee Year. The pilgrimage
will provide us with an

opportunity to gather as a Diocesan community of
faith and to participate in workshops, outdoor
walks, the Sacrament of the Sick and our pilgrimage
Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. **The Choir of
Many Voices** will be under the able direction of
Ciaran Coll. If you would like to join the Choir or
have any queries about the pilgrimage, please email
knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie.



JUBILEE OF YOUTH ROME 2025 JULY 28TH - AUGUST 4TH

€550

REGISTER NOW

- Return flights with 10kg bag (can upgrade to 20kg for an additional cost)
- Accommodation
- Pilgrim packs, including meal vouchers & transport ticket for Rome
- Diocesan Group T-Shirt & pack
- Insurance
- Preparation Program before, during and after Rome
- All events in Rome

MORE INFO:
+353 86 104 0579
natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie



SPIRITUAL HOLIDAY SHRINES OF ITALY

May, 6th – 9 days, Visiting Padua, San Damiano,
Assisi & San Giovanni Rotondo Spiritual Director:
Fr. Gary Darby. Contact:
Pat O'Connor 087 2610405

**MEDUGORJE PILGRIMAGE 4th to 11th June
2025** Contact Derek & Anne Farrell 0862573824
and 0879224077

**CANONISATION OF ST LAURENCE
O'TOOLE. Diocesan Pilgrimage to Eu,
Normandy, France 10th -12th May 2025.**

€595 per person sharing.

All above Marian Pilgrimages:
(01) 878 8159