



**Mary and Martha's prayers were answered as we can be sure ours will be as well."**

In chapter 11 of St John's Gospel which we read today, we are told that Jesus has just received news that his friend Lazarus is seriously ill. The disciples are somewhat alarmed because there were people in that area who are threatening the life of Jesus and they tried to dissuade him from going. But, when it is clear that Jesus has made up his mind to go, St Thomas shows courage says to the other disciples, "Come, let us also go to die with him." This is a great display of courage from the Apostle who has gone down in history as "Doubting Thomas." On this occasion, he was prepared to step up to the mark and support Jesus. A Daughter of Charity once told me that her approach to her missionary work as *Action....Reflection....Action.*" In other words, we can have busy times in our lives when there is a lot going on and then this should ideally be followed by a time of stepping back in order to refresh ourselves. The Season of Lent is a time of reflection. We can use the time to rebuild our spiritual resources, spend more with God in prayer and to think about the direction of our lives. As Thomas Merton reminds us, "we all need enough silence and solitude in our lives to enable the deep inner voice of our true self to be heard at least occasionally." Jesus was a frequent guest at Martha and Mary's home in Bethany, and he was clearly good friends of the two sisters and their brother Lazarus. We read of three visits there in Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-53, and John 12:1-9. We are told in St John's Gospel that "Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus." This unique statement which tells us of the special relationship Jesus had with Martha, her sister, and her brother. And, of course, this close friendship Jesus later raised Lazarus from the dead. It has been said that Martha and Mary are the contemplative and active dimensions of the Christian life, and the tensions between both, which is part of each one of our faith journeys. Like Martha and Mary, it can seem that our prayers have gone unanswered. They were praying that their brother would recover from his illness and Jesus appeared to be absent and not responding. They must have wondered why Jesus was silent at their time of need. However, Jesus was in fact far from silent and was able to use God's grace in these circumstances to bring about one of his best-known miracles: the raising of Lazarus from the dead. An occasion that brought many people to the faith. When reflecting on this reading, Pope Francis said: "The resurrection of Lazarus is also a sign of the regeneration that takes place in the

believer through Baptism. Through the action and power of the Holy Spirit, the Christian is a person who journeys in life as a new creature." Mary and Martha's prayers were answered as we can be sure ours will be as well. God sometimes works in mysterious ways, and we can be sure that he always hears us and listens to us especially when we allow time to listen to his voice in our hearts. So, let us pray to St Martha and St Mary in particular that they will help us to find time for Jesus in the midst of our busy lives.

Deacon Gerard



**29 March - PALM SUNDAY:**  
**6.30pm (Saturday Vigil) with Blessing of Palms**  
**10.30am & 12.00 noon Masses - with Blessing of Palms**

### COLLECTIONS

15 March 2026	Common Fund	€ 1365
	Share	€ 965
St Patrick's Day	Common Fund	€ 940
	Share	€ 710

Sincere thanks for your support

### LENTEN ECUMENICAL EVENING PRAYER for the four Wednesdays of Lent

will be hosted by Sacred Heart Church, Seabury  
on 25<sup>th</sup> March 8pm All Welcome.

### WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 21 March 2026 - 6.30pm**

**Richie & Nell Murphy,[A]; Niamh Hand,[2<sup>nd</sup> A]; Louise Fitzpatrick,[24<sup>th</sup> A]; Jim Shearman,[A]; Bernadette Shearman,[A]; Mary Shearman,[A]; Gay Kennedy,[A]; Dan & Breda Sugrue,[60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 - 10.30a.m.**

**Mattie Coleman, RD]; Carmel Byrne, [1<sup>st</sup> A]; Michael & Bridie O'Brien,[A].**

**12 Noon**

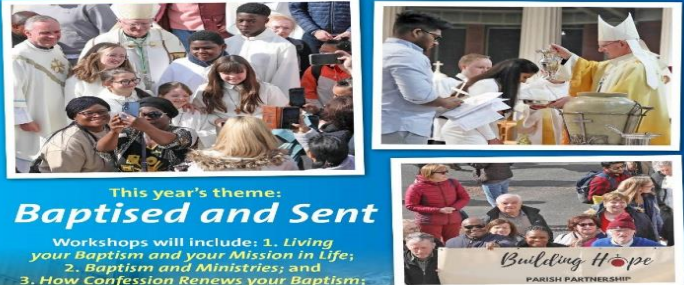
**Una O'Reilly, Month's Mind; Mai & Willie Colgan,[A]; Bernadette & Sean O'Meara,[A]; John Fagan, [A]**

**THE WOODLANDS TRIO -  
Charity Concert**  
*in aid of St Francis Hospice,  
St Anne's Parish Centre, 11.30am.*




Beethoven, Gershwin and much more  
**Tuesday 24th March**

Archdiocese of Dublin  
**Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock**  
 Saturday, April 25, 2026



This year's theme:  
**Baptised and Sent**  
 Workshops will include: 1. Living your Baptism and your Mission in Life; 2. Baptism and Ministries; and 3. How Confession Renews your Baptism;



For more information, email [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie)  
**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, APRIL 25 2026**  
 A bus has been booked for parishioners of the Partnership of Parishes - Malahide, Portmarnock, Yellow Walls and Kinsealy. More information will be available from Pauline Geoghegan, at St. Anne's, Portmarnock, at a later date.



**DUBLIN DIOCESAN  
PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**  
 Pastoral Theme 2026  
**The Annunciation**  
 3rd to 8th  
**September 2026,**  
 led by Archbishop Farrell. Further information from [info@joewalstours.ie](mailto:info@joewalstours.ie) or phone 01 2410800. 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 [deirdre.daly@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:deirdre.daly@dublindiocese.ie) / 01 8087555 or to Canon John Flaherty, [john.flaherty@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:john.flaherty@dublindiocese.ie).

**WAY OF THE CROSS**  
 Through the Phoenix Park - Dublin



**GOOD FRIDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**  
 Starting at 12.00pm at the Wellington Monument, Phoenix Park


The procession will proceed from the Wellington Monument to the Papal Cross.  
 Led by the Most Reverend Dermot Farrell Archbishop of Dublin



**Communion & Liberation**  
[info@clireland.com](mailto:info@clireland.com)  
[www.clireland.com](http://www.clireland.com)

**The Spirituality of Sacred Scripture**  
 You are invited to a talk by Fr Maurice Colgan, OP on **The Spirituality of Sacred Scripture** at St. Sylvester's Parish Centre, Malahide at 8pm on Tuesday, March 24th.

**BALDOYLE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE.**  
 A new Peer Support Group for Adults experiencing difficulties with their mental health which will meet fortnightly in our premises in Baldoyle, commencing on April 16th. The group will be facilitated by Shine, a national charity that supports people with lived experience of mental illness and their family members / supporters (<https://www.shine.ie/>). People living in North County Dublin who are experiencing mental illness or mental health challenges are very welcome to attend.



**Taizé**  
**Evening Prayer**  
 together with Br. Jean Marie of the Taizé Community who is visiting Ireland.

**7.30pm Monday 23rd March 2026**  
**Christchurch Cathedral, Christchurch Place,  
 Wood Quay, Dublin 8, D08 TF98**

**All are welcome**