



St Luke's is not the first Gospel to be written but scripture scholars tell us that he includes some unique stories. These include the Prodigal Son which is our Gospel reading today. St Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles which chronicles the life of the early church and is described as the second volume of his Gospel. Today's Gospel is familiar to us. The prodigal son went off and squandered his inheritance but was later forgiven and welcomed back home by this father. I often reflect on the reaction of his brother who did everything right and played by the rules but felt (perhaps unfairly) that he got very little thanks for his diligence and loyalty. But it's the forgiveness and compassion of the father that is particularly important. The mercy he shows is a reflection of that which God the Father shows to each and every one of us. This is something that Pope Francis often refers to and held a Jubilee of Mercy in 2016. The spiritual writer Henri Nouwen wrote a wonderful book called "The Return of the Prodigal Son" which I would recommend. It has sold over a million copies worldwide. Nouwen reflects on his experience of contemplating Rembrandt's famous painting of the Return of the Prodigal Son. Art meets a famous Gospel story and inspires a wonderful meditation by the author. He writes: "Rembrandt's embrace [of the prodigal son] remained imprinted on my soul." Nouwen says that the phrase "*be compassionate as your Father is compassionate*" is perhaps the most radical statement that Jesus ever made. It perfectly describes the attitude of the Father in the Gospel today. He says that Jesus is inviting us to "*become like God and to show the same compassion to others as he is showing to me.*" We must become like the heavenly Father and see the world through his eyes, Nouwen writes. The story of the Prodigal Son where the father has immense compassion for his son who has returned home after a life of debauchery. He writes that the challenge for all of us is to become like the compassionate father in the story. Father Kieran O'Mahony makes the following point about this reading: "*Like many a parable, this story makes its point in what seems to be unfair: the spendthrift son is rewarded and the elder son is hurt and angry. Jesus is telling us that love is a free gift, not something we earn by our goodness. This is true of human love and is also true of God's love.*" We pray that, in our times, we may reach out to those who, like the prodigal son, have lost their way in life and welcome them with love and compassion. **Deacon Gerard**



POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis returns home to the Vatican to continue his recuperation following his illness. Let us continue to pray for the health and recovery of the Holy Father

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased
Sean Fagan, Limetree Avenue

Saturday 29nd March

6.30pm Anne Kenny,[Month's Mind];
Cora Beckett,[4th A].

Sunday, 30th March

10.30am Teresa Dwyer, [RD]

12 noon Mona Connolly [A]; Cora Beckett,[4th A];
Ann Egan,[1st A]; Christopher Whelan,[A];
James McGeehan,[A]; Denis Kelleher,[7th A];
Padraic Melvin, [4th A]; Bridie & Michael O'Brien,[A];
Tommy McLernon, [A]; Bridget Diviney,[A]

COLLECTIONS

Sunday, 23rd March 2025

Common Fund € 1651

Share € 1045

Sincere thanks for your support.

PARTNERSHIP ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE

'Faith and Me'[4], will be held in St. Andrew's Church of Ireland, Malahide on **Wednesday, 2nd April 2024 at 7.30p.m.**



Wednesday, of Holy Week

Traditionally known as 'Spy Wednesday' a special **DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE**. Continuous prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament from after Mass to 10pm. Rosary on the hour. Benediction 9.30pm. Led by the Eucharistic Adoration Group.

Healing evening St Anne's
Venue: Church Portmarnock
Date: Tuesday April 8th
Time: 7pm to 9pm.
Led by Fr. John Keane
 &
 Don Devaney
All welcome.



SISTER NOREEN VAUGHAN



has served the people of our Parish Partnership of Malahide and Portmarnock for most of her life as a member of the Religious Community of the Infant Jesus

Sisters, often referred to in Ireland as the **Drishane Nuns**. Sr. Noreen was one of the founding members of her Religious community in Malahide whose lasting legacy is Malahide Community School, officially known as



Pobalscoil Iosa. After a short time in Malahide, Sr. Noreen was asked to come and teach in the new Portmarnock Community School and thereby began a long life of ministry in Portmarnock, first in education and then for almost three decades in the

Parish. As most of you know, Sr. Noreen took on the task of preparing our young people and their Families for the Sacrament of Confirmation. For many years, with her dedicated Team, she forged a powerful link between the Parish, the Families and the Primary Schools to ensure the best preparation possible for Confirmation. Sr. Noreen entrusted the entire process to the Holy Spirit, who never let her down. Last year Sr. Noreen decided to “retire” from active Confirmation ministry, but continues to support all of us through her prayer and the lighting of an immense number of candles on our behalf, which we truly appreciate. Sr. Noreen’s service was recognised and honoured, at the request of the Parish Pastoral Council, in the way Sr. Noreen preferred last Thursday. First we offered a Mass of Thanksgiving for her outstanding service, followed by refreshments and the cutting of a celebratory cake in the Parish Centre, and then lunch for her invited guests including the remainder of her Confirmation Team. As a token of our gratitude, the Parish presented Sr. Noreen with two places on the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in June, for herself and one of her nieces. Mile buíochas Sr. Noreen, good health, happiness and every blessing to you for many years to come. **AD MULTOS ANNOS.** CJF

The two images above are the symbols of Sr. Noreen’s Congregation. The Cross resembles a star which shines brightly over the globe sending the rays of God’s Holy Spirit of Love into the whole world.



Finance Committee

All our Parishioners owe a deep debt of gratitude to **Mr. Matt Dunphy and Mrs. Pat O’Farrell** at the conclusion of their mandate as

members of the **Parish Finance Committee**. Both Matt and Pat have served on the Committee for many years, Matt as Chair and Pat with particular responsibility for the maintenance of the extensive parish grounds and gardens. Sincere thanks to both of you for your commitment and service to the people of

the Parish and for making your expertise available to the various Parish Priests with whom you worked over the years. Mr. David Sweeney continues to represent the PPC on the Finance Committee. New members of the Finance Committee will be sought and appointed in the coming weeks. Mandated by Canon Law, the Parish Finance Committee’s role is to advise the Parish Priest on all aspects of Parish Finances. CJF



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION RE-LAUNCH

Would you like to spend a quiet hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on a regular basis? Parishioner, Jacinta Kelly, will share her experiences at all masses weekend of 29th /30th March and will invite you to try this way of prayer. Adoration currently takes place in St Anne’s Church, after 10.00a.m. Mass every Wednesday until 1.00pm and in the Jubilee Adoration Chapel 10.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday (excl. Wed morning), from 7.00a.m. – 8.00am on Tuesday, and 7.00pm – 9.00pm Monday and Thursday.

ST MARNOCK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to the 37 Pupils & Teachers (Ms. Kenealy, Mr. Maughan & Ms. Murphy) from St. Marnock’s National School on achieving second place overall in the **Waltons RTE Lyric FM Music for Schools Competition, the Final** which took place on Monday last in the National Concert Hall. They performed an original composition “The Key of Life”, which was composed by Ms. Kenealy in collaboration with the other teachers and the students themselves. This was their first time entering the Competition. They won a Trophy and a Grant for the purchase of Musical Instruments for the school.

First Confessions next Thursday 3rd April 2.30-4.30pm

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#