

The person reading today's Gospel has a relatively easy job as it is probably one of the shortest Sunday Gospel readings. But it is packed with meaning and resonance. Today's Gospel speaks about sheep. St John tells us that Jesus said: *"the sheep that belong to me listen to my voice."* This image of sheep would have been much more familiar to the audience that St. John was writing for than it is for us today. Pope Francis has spoken about ministers having the "smell of their sheep", which suggests being close to the people they are caring for. There is also a focus on listening in this parable. The sheep "listen" to the voice of Jesus. We too need to be attentive to the word of God in our lives. Perhaps we might consider going on a retreat or simply taking some "time out" to appreciate the beauty of nature at this time of the year and to thank God for the many blessings in our lives. Jesus assures us that: *"I give them eternal life; they will never be lost, and no one will ever steal them from me."* Jesus wants us to remain close to him. When referring to sheep and lambs, I often think how Jesus chose to appear as a lamb on the altar at the apparition at Knock. The Cistercian writer, Father Berchmans Walsh, said that Knock is only apparition known to him in the world where the Lamb of God appears. I was driving across the country and it was wonderful to see the sheep and newborn lambs out in the fields after the long winter. There was a great sense of life moving on, of energy and new birth. Pope Francis once wrote *"the Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: Those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others"*. Saint John XXIII once said that "the church is like an old village fountain and, from its tap, fresh water must always flow." The month of May is especially dedicated to Our Lady in the church. I remember the May altars at school when I was younger. Let us pray for the


intercession of Our Lady especially during this month of May that she will guide and direct us to the work that her son Jesus wants us to do. We might like to say a decade of the rosary or one of the familiar prayers like the Memorare:

*"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to you do I come, before you I kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen*

**Deacon Gerard**

*Building Hope*

Are You Being Called  
to be  
a Man of Hope  
for others?




"The priest is a man of hope. He brings hope, not because of himself, but because he brings the Lord Jesus. He is a minister of the future, a sign that God walks with His people and never abandons them."

— Pope Francis

If you would like to find out more about being a diocesan priest serving in the Diocese of Dublin – contact:

<p><b>Fr. Séamus McEntee</b> Director of Vocations - Priesthood email: <a href="mailto:vocations@dublindiocese.ie">vocations@dublindiocese.ie</a> web: <a href="http://dublindiocese.ie/vocations">dublindiocese.ie/vocations</a></p>	<p><b>Fr. Bill O'Shaughnessy</b> Assistant Vocations Director email: <a href="mailto:bill.oshaughnessy@dublindiocese.ie">bill.oshaughnessy@dublindiocese.ie</a> web: <a href="http://dublindiocese.ie/vocations">dublindiocese.ie/vocations</a></p>
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 Archdiocese of Dublin



**PRAY FOR OUR NEW HOLY FATHER Pope Leo XIV IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS. AS WE THANK GOD FOR HIS ELECTION. MAY THE LORD BLESS HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE YEARS AHEAD**

BLESS HIS LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE YEARS AHEAD

**WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 6.30p.m.**

Roseanne Canning[A];  
Christopher & Mary Ellen Feehily,[A];

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 10.30a.m.**

Noel Haran,[4<sup>th</sup> A]; Marie White,[RD]

**12 noon**

Martin & Baby Foley,[A]; Mary McDonagh,[3<sup>rd</sup> A];  
Michael Keating,[Bth Rem]; Ellen Revins,[A];  
John Heron,[A]; Catherine Freeney,[6<sup>th</sup> A];  
Teresa McDaid,[A]; Sr Patricia Moore, [A].

**8<sup>th</sup> Centenary of the Canonisation of St. Laurence O'Toole Patron Saint of Dublin:**



50 Pilgrims will accompany Archbishops Dermot Farrell and Michael Jackson on an ecumenical pilgrimage to Eu in Normandy to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canonisation of our Patron Saint. Our Parish will be represented by 7 Pilgrims. Eu is the final resting place of St. Laurence. His tomb is in the crypt of the

Collegiate church in Eu which is named after him, The main pilgrimage Mass in this church on Sunday 11 May, will be jointly celebrated by the Archbishops of Rouen and Dublin and the bishop of Amiens, concluding a week of festivities honouring St. Laurence. *St. Laurence O'Toole pray for us.*



**Month of May - Pray The Rosary daily at 9.30 am the church or privately or with your Family**



**CHARITY CHORAL CONCERT**

St Anne's Church Portmarnock  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 8.00pm  
Choirs performing: *Lambay Singers; Portmarnock Singers Third Day Chorale Ladies.*

**Retiring Collection to Support Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Sick Pilgrims Fund**



**JOURNEY THROUGH CARMELITE SPIRITUALITY AT ST. SYLVESTERS:**

A series of talks exploring the teaching and example of the

great Carmelite saints, brought to life by inspiring Carmelite speakers. Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of May – 7.30pm St. Therese of Lisieux – Her Little Way: Finding God in the Ups and Downs of Daily Life, by Fr Vincent O'Hara OCD.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of May – 7.30pm St. Titus Brandsma - Catholic Journalist: Courageous Witness to Truth, by Br. Patrick Mullins O. Carm.

All Talks are. In St. Sylvester's Parish Centre, Malahide

**COLLECTIONS**

Common Fund €1671  
Share €1072

*Sincere thanks for your support.*

**EASTER DUES**

Sincere thanks to all those who have already contributed to this important collection for the Common Fund which supports all our Archbishop, bishops, active, sick and retired priests throughout the year. Easter Dues may be left in the Safes in the Church, or handed into the Parish Office or Sacristy.



*Congratulations* to the Families and School of the 63 pupils of St. Marnock's NS who were Confirmed last Friday. *'Come Holy Spirit'.*