



**Feast of the Ascension,
17th May 2026**

***“Go into all the world
and
preach the good news.”***

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, which the Acts of the Apostles tells us, took place 40 days after Easter. Before the Ascension, Jesus leaves us with a very important instruction which I think speaks to us all as we return to mass. He says:

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. The one who believes and is baptised will be saved.” This the great Christian missionary call to action which has inspired so many people down through the centuries. Those who take up this challenge are assured that they will not be acting alone. There are several descriptions of what happened at the Ascension recorded in the New Testament. In 1 Tim 3:16, we are told that Jesus was *“taken up in glory.”* In Luke 24:51, we read that *“[Jesus] withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven.”* And in St John’s Gospel, Jesus tells us that *“I am going to the Father.”* In Acts 1; 10, it says *“Jesus was taken up from you into heaven.”* We always have a blessing at the end of mass. I think it’s very appropriate that Jesus’s last act on earth would be to bless his disciples. It’s an indication of his approval for their mission to come and of our own future which *must* include all of the baptised. The Ascension marked the end of Jesus’ physical presence with his disciples, but he reminded them in Matthew 28:20: *“I am with you always, to the very end of time.”* In other words, he has promised to remain with us in other ways. Often when a family member or good friend passes way, we say that they are “absent but not gone”, because we believe that they continue to walk together on the journey of faith with us. We can experience their presence assisting us in challenging situations. Last Wednesday, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, 109 years since the apparitions. When speaking about Fatima in 2000, Saint John Paul II said: *“The message of Fatima is a call to conversion. Our final goal is heaven, our true home, where the heavenly Father awaits everyone with his merciful love.”* The year 1917 was a very auspicious and

important one in world history coming as I did a year before the end of the First World War in 1918 and just a few months before the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in October 1917 which led to the establishment of Communism in Russia and later elsewhere in the world. Both major historic events which shaped the course of our world for many decades that followed. There were six apparitions in Fatima to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta between May and October 1917. We have visited Fatima twice and found it a very prayerful place. The coming week between the Ascension and Pentecost has been chosen by Archbishop Farrell as time of prayer and reflection for our Archdiocese. We should all allow ourselves some time to do this in the coming week and think about how we can support the church of our times as each and every one for us has an invitation from Jesus to serve in the Church. As Our Lady reminds us at Fatima, our future is in God and that we are active and responsible partners in creating that future.

Deacon Gerard

COLLECTIONS

Common Fund	€1,603
Share	€ 980

Sincere thanks for your support last week

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY
COLLECTION**

Will take place after all Masses on
Saturday/Sunday, 16th/17th May 2026

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

*Recently Deceased
Ines Duffy, late of St. Anne’s Square*

Saturday, 16th May

Bridie Mannix, Month’s Mind; Helen Simpson,[A];
Paddy McCarthy,[A]; Julia & Ellen Murphy,[A];
Nora Hill,[2nd A]; Rose Anne Canning,[A];
John Murphy, [A]; Theresa McDaid,[A]; Eric Carroll,[A];
Rory McSweeney,[A]; Rossa O’Keeffe,p[A]

Sunday, 10.30a.m.

Noel Haran,[5th A]; McInerney Family,[A];
Fitzgerald Family, [A],

Sunday, 12 noon

Josephine Burns,[Month’s Mind];
Peter Wynne, [Month’s Mind]; George Heaney,[A]
Michael Diffley,[2nd A]; Mary Walsh,[A];
Joan Mangan,[A]

ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBLIN

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT 17th - 25th May 2026

for the renewal of the Church
in the Archdiocese of Dublin

You are warmly invited to join once again with every parish in the diocese in a Novena to the Holy Spirit – our dedicated period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Novena Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church, stand with us at this Spirit-filled time.

Grace us with your faithful presence as we pray, reflect and plan.

Mary, our Mother, wrap your mantle of gentleness and courage around us. Inspire us to say 'yes' to your Son, as we breathe in the Spirit of Truth and Love, to renew our communities of faith around Jesus.

Holy Mary, you stood at the foot of the Cross, broken-hearted. You witnessed the joy of the resurrection and the wonder of Pentecost. You walked great distances in your time. Be with us now on our Synodal Journey, Building Hope.

Beloved Mother, open our hearts generously to our baptismal calling. Encourage us into ever deepening communion with your Son, with each other, with those most in need, and with all of God's creation.

A Mhuire Mháthair, hold us close to you as we embrace God's loving invitation to wholeness, healing and peace. Amen.



CONCERT
*to support sending
Sick Pilgrims to
Lourdes
with the
Dublin Diocesan
Pilgrimage 2026*

**St. Anne's Church Portmarnock,
Sunday 17th May at 5pm.**

*The 3rd Day Chorale, The Portmarnock Singers,
Capella, the KilleStars. Horn Concerto
by Cormac O hAodáin, Peter Mullin and
Marion Doherty-Hayden.*

**Admission free. Retiring Collection at the doors.
Your support will be much appreciated.**



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ST HELEN'S JNS

Congratulations and every good wish and blessing to the children of 2nd Class, St. Helen's JNS, who celebrated their First Holy Communion with their Families on Saturday 16th May at 11.00am. It was wonderful to be with the Families and School Community as we marked this very special time in the children's progression in the Faith. We look forward to the continued participation of the children and Families in Mass throughout the year ahead and particularly at the 10.30 Family Mass on Sundays.



CELEBRATION OF FIRST PENANCE ST MARNOCK'S JNS

Congratulations to the children of St. Marnock's JNS who celebrated their First Penance on Wednesday last. The children will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday, 23rd May at 11.00am

A DAY OF PRAYER FOR IRELAND AT EMMANUEL HOUSE, CLONFERT. PENTECOST SATURDAY, 23rd MAY

Bus departs St. Cronan's Car Park, Swords at 7.30am and Fingal Offices at 7.45am.
Contact Nora at 8404247 or 086 3292329.

YOUTH FESTIVAL IN MEDJUGORJE EVERYONE WELCOME

It will be a wonderful event full of music and happiness.

29th July to 5th August

For information phone Teresa 087 206 9249

FULLY ALIVE YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saturday, May 23rd & Sunday, May 24th

St. Catherine's Senior School

Ratoath Road, Cabra, Dublin 7 D07 V045

Contribution €40 – meals included

Shalom Catholic Communitysvp & Info –
dublin@comshalom.org