



Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

In our Gospel today, Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. Jesus says to his disciples: "In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken." However, Jesus also offers us the certain hope of the resurrection, so important to remember during this month of November: "And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven." We then have the parable of the fig tree. Even in winter it begins to grow leaves which give a hint of the fruits to come. As the poet Shelley put it: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" Scripture scholars say that Jesus proposes no clear timescale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence is a call to alertness, to live the present to the full. Jesus also offers us his assurance that "he is near, at the very gates." In other words, he is close to us despite our difficulties and uncertainties. The gate is very near to the door of our house, so Jesus is telling us that he is close at hand and that we should not be disturbed or upset when changes arise. He also encourages us by saying that he will be present to us: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." In our busy lives, this can often be very difficult to achieve. We are often running around in so many different directions that we have no time to pause and reflect, to smell the roses as it were, and to enjoy the gift of this time that God has given us. As someone once told me: "That's why it's called the present, because it's a gift!" People sometimes refer to this as "mindfulness" which can be described as a way of living in the present moment and not being distracted by future or of past events outside our immediate control. This also reminds me of the words of a song which says, "the moment at hand is the only thing we really own." This short prayer by Father Kieran O'Mahony sums it up well: *'Help me, eternal God, to accept your gift of the present moment. It is the only moment I will ever have, so let me inhabit it richly and fully, and celebrate your gift of life in abundance.'* May we also be encouraged by the words of Jesus in our Gospel today: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Let us pray in the coming week that we will allow time every day to thank God for the gift of the present moment, for life, for love and to ask for his blessing on all we do that it may be fruitful in his service.

Deacon Gerard.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

POPE FRANCIS has declared **Sunday 17th November 2024** to be the eighth **World Day of the Poor**, with the theme of **"The prayer of the poor rises up to God."**

The expression that gives the 2024 World Day of the Poor its theme, is taken from the Book of Sirach (Sir 21:5), which Pope Francis says is not sufficiently known and deserves to be discovered for the richness of its themes.

In his message for this World Day of the Poor, the Holy Father reiterates that "**the poor hold a privileged place in God's heart**" and invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Seamus Agnew, in New York
[Brother of Gerry Agnew, Strand Road]
Capt. Con Power, Summerhill, Co Meath
[Brother of Mandy O'Daly, Ardilaun]

Saturday, 6.30p.m

Chris Conway, [Month's Mind];
David Crawford, [2nd A]; Joyce Ormsby, [Bth Rem].
Danny McGlynn, [A]; Bill & Rosaleen Eagney, [A];
Leo & Delia McHugh, [A].

Sunday, 10.30a.m.

David Crawford, [2nd A]; Seannie Byrne, [5th A]
Sarah Moore, [A]; Kathleen & Reggie Denny, [A]
Hazel Morrison, [A].

12 noon

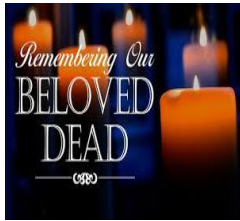
Baby Fiadh Kate Farrell, [Month's Mind];
Ignatius Bernard, [Month's Mind];
Seamus Agnew, [Recently Deceased];
Michael Hussey, [A]; Barbara Murray, [9th A];
Jack, Mary, Seamus, Gerry & Maura Hughes, [A];
Christopher & Mary O'Loughlin, [A];
Seannie Byrne, [5th A]; David Crawford, [2nd A]

COLLECTIONS Weekend: 9/10 November 2024

Common Fund € 1125

Share Appeal Sunday € 1655

Thank you for your generous support



NOVEMBER ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD

envelopes are available in the church and may be left in the Parish Office or in the church safes



PILGRIMAGE ANNIVERSARY

St Lawrence O'Toole's 800th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Rouen and Eu with

Archbishop Farrell and Archbishop Jackson, **10th to 12th May 2025**: Booking is now open. Contact Marian Pilgrimages, Dublin, at 01 878 8159.

Online Advent Retreat: Keeping Vigil for the Vulnerable God.

features a series of online reflections given in preparation for Christmas. The Retreat Giver is Stephen Cummins OP, is a Dominican friar currently based in Kilkenny. Using the four Sunday Gospels as signposts, the four Advent reflections will be an invitation to explore the question: "What God are we awaiting to birth in us this Advent?" Four recorded presentations will become available over the four Sundays of Advent. Participants can download the Gospels, watch the films whenever suits them, and revisit films they have already viewed, so people can register at any time during Advent

<https://prioryinstitute.com/events/2024-online-advent-retreat> or prioryinstitute.com.

FAITH CLASS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN:

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd teaches children about prayer and faith using Montessori principles. This is an exciting opportunity for young children to experience the joy of God's unique love for them in a creative, fun and prayerful environment. Level one class for ages 3-6. Time: 11:35am-12:35pm (after family mass), in the Parish Centre. Contact - Aoife 0861646971 for more information or to enrol.

THE IRISH HOSPICE FOUNDATION provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. For more information Visit www.hospicefoundation.ie



RUAH: BREATH OF LIFE TEAM INVITE YOU TO A DAY OF RENEWAL

Theme God's Holy Spirit active
In our Lives Today
Venue Portmarnock Parish Centre
Time/Date: 1.30pm - 5.20pm
Saturday, 23rd November



the organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its monthly Parent Support Evening on **Wednesday 20th November at 7:15pm** in the Hilton Hotel, Malahide Road, Northern Cross, Dublin, D17 Y924. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or how recent their death was. You do not need to register in advance. meeting. To find out more call 01 4045378 or email info@anamcara.ie We also offer an online support group

PORTMARNOCK SINGERS

Will be joined by the Sea Sharps, IIMS Children's Chorus and the Sensations to perform a selection of Choral and Christmas Music on **Sunday, December 8th at 7.30p.m. in St. Anne's Church.** We would love to see you there and hope it would be a start of your Christmas celebrations. Tickets available at the door.



THE ARCH CLUB

is hosting its bi-annual **Christmas Fair in the Centre on the 1st December 2024 from 11am - 3pm.**

15 different stalls. Santa and his elves will be present. We would Love to see everyone.



THIRD DAY CHORALE

**A Choral Celebration
at Christmas
Sunday, 1st December 2024
at 3.00p.m.**

In aid of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
Featuring: Third Day Chorale Ladies, Ciúnas Choir, Cappella, Rathdown Cantori, Réalta Chamber Choir and St. George's Brass Band