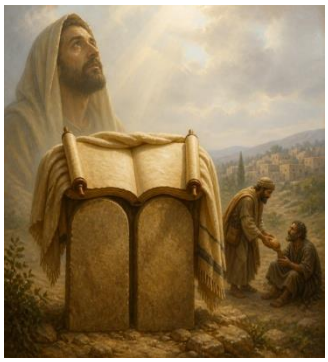


"The words of today's Gospel are helpful and consoling"

Matthew 22:34-40

Today's short Gospel is about love. Jesus quotes directly from the Hebrew scriptures when he tells us that the most important commandments are: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." And "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." This brief exchange is found in all three synoptic Gospels (Mark 12:28-31 and Luke 10:25-28). We can also say that St John's Gospel focuses on love. In fact, it is said that when St John was an old man he would always emphasise the importance of love. Scripture scholars tell us that there are 613 commandments in the Hebrew Bible and there was a discussion among the rabbis as to which of them were the most important. The words of today's Gospel are helpful and consoling. We are told that the entire bible can be summarised in two simple phrases which mean loving God and loving your neighbour. In a letter to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of St Therese of Lisieux, Pope Francis quoted her own words: "It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to love". Pope Francis writes: "It is trust that brings us to love and thus sets us free from fear. It is trust that helps us to stop looking to ourselves and enables us to put into God's hands what he alone can accomplish". He concludes, "At a time of great complexity, St Therese can help us rediscover the importance of simplicity, the absolute primacy of love, trust and abandonment." The challenge presented to us in today's Gospel is not easy. We have busy and demanding lifestyles when so many of us are juggling different work and family commitments. Let us pray in the coming week let us ask God to help us to reach out to our neighbours with love wherever we may find them. St Vincent de Paul once said "do whatever good lies at your hands" because he realised that sometimes those who need help may not be far away.

Deacon Gerard

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased
Kathleen Freaney, Old Portmarnock

Saturday, 24th October – 6.30pm
Sean Colgan,[1st A]

Sunday, 25th October - 10.30am
Brian & Maura Walshe,[A];
John & Anne Kelehan,[A];
Honoria & Thomas Geoghegan,[A];
Elizabeth & Peter Coyle,[A]; Renee Flannery,[A]

12 Noon
Brian O'Farrell,[Month's Mind];
Sean Colgan,[1st A]; Eileen Carroll,[1st A];
Brian & Maura Walshe,[A]; Tommy Kelly,[A];
Anne & Celia Kelly,[A]; Tony Germaine,[Bth Rem];
David Revins,[A]; Joy Heron,[A]; Renee Flannery.A

STAR OF THE SEA PARISH PARTNERSHIP MASS

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY. 26 October
Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am in
Sacred Heart Yellow Walls
THIS WILL BE THE ONLY PUBLIC MASS CELEBRATED IN THE PARTNERSHIP TODAY.

COLLECTIONS

Common Fund	**€ 1,305**
Mission Sunday	**€ 1,258**

Sincere thanks for your support

MASS ATTENDANCE SURVEY

As in previous years the Archdiocese will be taking a count in all parishes of those attending the Saturday Vigil Mass/and Sunday Masses. Having a sense of Mass attendance in parishes and partnerships of parishes is essential as the Diocese plans ahead. **The count will continue for the third weekend on *Saturday/Sunday, 24th/25th October*.**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY COLLECTION

Will take place on Saturday & Sunday, 24th /25th October

ST PADRE PIO DEVOTIONS

Friday, 30th October 2026; Rosary 7.10p.m. : Mass 7.30

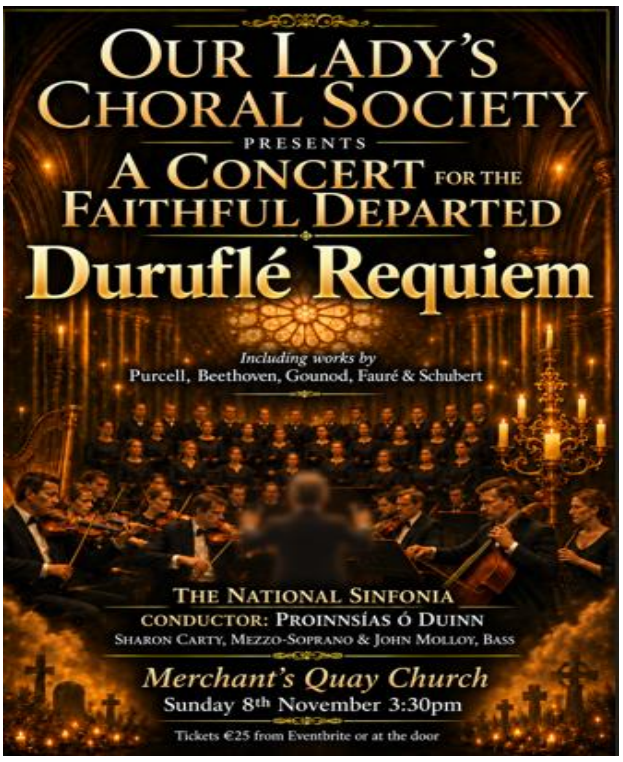
Congratulations to **Patricia Haran** who was elected as the new **Chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council** at its last meeting on October 12th. Patricia graciously accepted the appointment for a three-year term commencing with immediate effect. Sincere thanks to **David Sweeney**, the outgoing Chair, who has served the parish community so faithfully in multiple capacities over many years. Please pray for Patricia as she assumes her new voluntary position and for David as he continues to serve our parish in his usual unassuming and very effective way. The next meeting of the PPC will be on Thursday 12th Nov at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. Communication with the PPC may be made through the Parish Office: **stannes@portmarnockparish.ie**

STAR OF THE SEA PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

will take place in St. Anne's Parish Centre on Tuesday, 27th October 2026 at 7.30p.m.

The Presidents, Chairs and Secretaries of our PPCs of the Star of the Sea Partnership of Parishes will meet to consider, with a view to action, matters of mutual concern in the pastoral life of the 4 Parishes. Contact with the Partnership Council is through each of the Parish Offices

CONCERT - VOICES ACROSS THE SEA

featuring local choirs, LAMBAY SINGERS, The PORTMARNOCK SINGERS and a very lovely visiting choir from over in WALES - CÔR YR HELI, takes place in Sacred Heart Church, Yellow Walls on the Bank Holiday Monday evening 26th October at 6.30pm. Admission is free but a collection will be taken at the close of the concert to help bring sick pilgrims to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage next September 2027.

NOVEMBER ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD: as our special month for remembering our dead draws so close, blank lists and envelopes are available in the church and parish ofice for the annual renewal of our 'Dead List'. Those enrolled are remebered at all Masses during the month of November and in our First Friday Masses throughout the year. 'Eternal Rest grant to them O Lord and may Perpetual Light shine upon them.'