



"Let us allow space for the Holy Spirit to enter our lives and our decisions and to help us on to the right road"

A Carmelite priest once told me that *"We [should] turn to God who is our help both now and always."* Saint Oscar Romero once said *"No prayer fully expresses our faith."*

We are now approaching the end of the Season of Easter with the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost a few weeks away. This is a good time for prayer and reflection as we await the coming gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us allow space for the Holy Spirit to enter our lives and our decisions and to help us on to the right road. This is a beautiful time of grace in the church as we go forward in hope. May we all embrace this opportunity.

So, let us pray that this Easter season will be a time of renewal and rebirth in our own lives. That we may be enlightened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit as we continue on our journey of faith.

The writer Thomas Merton said: *"Not all are called to be hermits but all need enough silence and solitude in their lives to enable the deep inner voice of our true self to be heard at least occasionally."*

It is really important that we give ourselves the time and space during this Easter season to reflect on the love of Jesus and his mercy for each and every one of us.

Whether that may be at the beginning or end of the day or for a few moments with a piece of scripture, we should allow ourselves some time and space for prayer and reflection.

I will conclude with the words of Pope Leo the Great once said, *"Jesus is the hand of God's mercy stretched out towards us"*. May we all embrace this mercy through prayer during this Easter season.

Deacon Gerard

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 15th – 19th September Please contact Pauline Geoghegan, 087 6293744.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

will be celebrated for Candidates of 6th Class in **ST. HELEN'S SNS on Thursday 2nd May at 11.00am and 1.30p.m.** Each Candidate may be accompanied by **4 people** which includes their Sponsor. Seating will be allocated through the Parish Office and School in advance of the ceremony Please note that the **Parish Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am on Thursday next.** No other celebrations are possible in the church on Confirmation Days. Every good wish and blessing to the young people and their Families in these final days of preparation.

Congratulations to the Families of the 64 pupils of St. Marnock's NS who made their Confirmation last Friday. They are a great credit to their Families and School.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

First Collection : €1295
Share : € 840

We are very grateful for your continued support.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

**Brian Duncan, Carrickhill Heights
Thomas Feeney];**

Saturday, 20th April

**6.30p.m. Herbert Lawton,[Bth Rem & Anniv];
Murt Kelly,[8thA]; Pat O'Rourke,[Bth Rem].**

Sunday, 21st April

**10.30a.m. Maura Walsh,[A]; Maureen O'Connor,[A];
Michael Finnegan,[A].**

12 noon

**Kathleen Flaherty, [3rd A];
Brenda Kavanagh McKenna.[A]; Una Pike,[A];
Theresa Hogan,[A]; Frank Donegan,[A].**

THE LAY MINISTRY COLLECTION,

for the support and training of lay ministry across the Archdiocese, will take place next weekend, 6th/7th May This collection will *replace* the usual Share collection.

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30AM. and 12 NOON. BAPTISMS 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am continually inspired by the spirit of faith and care that animates our Catholic community, even as we face the reality of so few vocations to the priesthood. This is a time of listening, discernment and renewed pastoral action for all of us in the Church, clergy and lay people. The vitality of our Church increasingly relies on our lay people to step into leadership and service roles with courage and love. In the past year, we can point to green shoots emerging through efforts associated with our Building Hope initiative. The Diocesan Certificate in Catechesis, provided by the Office of Mission and Ministry, is a good example. Announced last May, it has been a real success. This in-demand programme examines the vocation and mission of the participants inspired to share their faith with others. Thanks to your support, it gives them the tools to assist others on their faith journey. In particular, it helps them 'accompany families' sensitively and practically as they initiate young people into the life of the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and the reception of Holy Communion. Other creative programmes supporting lay people to nurture their adult faith, and engage with young people include, 'Servant Leadership', 'Pathways, 'Lay Funeral Leadership', 'Confirmation Connect' and the Laudato Si' Awards, as well as the 'Just Lent' campaign which focused on Christian social justice during Lent. These programmes help us to stop and 'abide' with Jesus to realise God's loving presence with us.

In light of all these significant initiatives, I ask for your generous support for the Lay Ministry Collection next weekend. Your contributions are vital in sustaining and expanding these initiatives, ensuring our Church remains a vibrant beacon of hope and faith in the world.

May the Lord bless you generously and help you find ways to bear fruit for Him and each other in abundance.

There can be a new beginning for each of us as we allow our sense of Christian faith, hope and love to grow within us. But that is only the first step. We are called at Baptism, all of us, to speak joyfully of the presence of the risen Christ to us and of the difference the Holy Spirit makes in our lives: 'We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.' (1 John 3: 24). I invite you to consider your role in the mission handed on to us by Jesus. Together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can forge a path of hope and renewal for our Archdiocese. + Dermot Farrell Archbishop of Dublin

SENIORLINE 10am-10pm, Freephone 1800 80 45

91. Callers may feel isolated, alone, wish to discuss a problem in confidence, or for company during their day.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday 1800 807077.

www.hospicefoundation.ie

BUILDING HOPE NOVENA: 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. The Novena will take place in the nine days from 12th – 20th May beginning on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. As well as being a time of prayer, this Novena time can be used to plan, in parish and partnership of parishes, for the pastoral year ahead guided by the Spirit. Novena prayer postcards are available in the church. Please take one.

CHURCH24 SURVEY: builds on previous surveys in 2001, 2013 and during the Covid-19 pandemic. To take part, scan the QR code below or follow <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/the-church-24-survey/>

The survey has three main objectives: 1. To listen to churchgoers on a range of long-standing issues and questions, particularly as they are being brought to light in the synodal process. 2. To explore some new issues that face us now, or soon will, but which were not talked about so much a decade ago, such as climate change, artificial intelligence, assisted dying or safeguarding procedures. 3. The Covid pandemic is over... or is it? What's happened to you and your faith community since lockdowns ended?



SUPPORT FOR BIRTH MOTHERS

Information and Support for Birth Mothers whose babies were placed for adoption may be found at www.birthinfo.ie or by calling the relevant section of Tusla at 0818 445500.

TOWARDS PEACE

Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. Monday and Tuesday 9am - 4pm and Wednesday 9am - 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit www.towardspeace.ie

DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION OF INTENTIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES AND NEWSLETTER ITEMS IS WEDNESDAY 4PM.

TIMES OF MASSES: WEEKDAYS 10AM: MON, WED, THURS and FRI.

SATURDAY: 6.30PM (VIGIL), SUNDAY: 10.30AM. and 12 NOON. BAPTISMS 1ST & 3RD SUNDAYS AND AT THE EASTER VIGIL (SOME EXCEPTIONS AROUND CHRISTMAS AND EASTER.). CONFESSIONS SAT. AFTER 6.30PM MASS, AFTER DAILY MASS (UNLESS THERE'S A FUNERAL), OR ON REQUEST.