

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Chapel Lane, Belfast BT1 1JJ

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Priests: Fr James Boyle MHM: Fr. John Nevin MHM: Fr. John Conroy MHM
The Ascension of the Lord (Cycle A) 27th May 2017

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

6pm Sat: 27/5: Intentions of Kevin & Nora Kearney

10am Sun: 28/5: For Kathleen Mc Mullans Family living and deceased

9am Mon: 29/5: NO MASS

1pm Mon: 29/5: Jamie Lee Rooney RIP

9am Tues: 30/5: Josephine Collins RIP

1pm Tues: 30/5: Dr Bernard Bryson RIP

9am Wed: 31/5: James Mc Kenna RIP

1pm Wed: 31/5: Intentions of a Nun seeking work here

9am Thurs: 1/6: Intentions of John that he can stay in this country

1pm Thurs: 1/6: Wilhelmina Maskey RIP

9am Fri : 2/6: Intentions of James

1pm Fri 2/6: For Deceased Hughes family RIP

6pm Fri: 2/6: For Eamon Treanor (sick)

9am Sat: 3/6: Souls in Purgatory

1pm Sat : 3/6: Wellbeing of Martin Mc Clafferty (sick)

6pm Sat: 3/6: John Short RIP

Let us remember the SICK in our Prayers: Paddy Gilliland, Michael Ryan, Peter Monaghan, Joe Faszczka & Betty, Jack Burns, Jan & Malachy, Martin Donaghy, Anne

Rose, James, Clare, Terry Fullerton, Elsie Cooney, Eileen Delaney, Anne Lambe, Donna Carey, , Danny Mc Kee, David, Dolores Kelly, Dinny Murphy, Sinead Ward, Colette Kearney, Sarah Keyland, Cian Travers, P McCloskey, Mary O' Neill, Maria Antonia Peres, Shannah Smyth, Pat Carville, Sheila Smith, Barry Mulholland, Paul Connolly, Joan Smith, Kumacho, Nora Mc Mahon, Marie Mc Guigan, Paddy Mc Geough, Annie Crawford, Nuala Mailey, Paul Mc Larnon, Patsy Mullan, Larry Mc Gurk, Bernadette Boswell, Seán & Phyliss Smyth, Netta Tracy, Linda McDonald, Terry Laverty, Christopher Browne, Kevin Heaney, Martha Foley, Louise Green, Marian Hunter, Colm Gallagher, Margaret Mc Cafferty, Anna, Kohl Theilis, Deirdre O'Neill, Sally Matthews, Dominick Mc Crossan, Bridie Mc Crossan, Brenda McKerverey, Donna, Margaret McCriskin, Sr. Eileen Ryan, Margaret Mc Kenna, Jean Kelly, Joseph Duffy, Elizabeth Magee, Arder Carson, Al Mc Comb, Joel Rivera, Nora McDonagh, Maire Mc Kenna, Eddie O' Neill, Margaret & Frankie Goodman.

PLEASE NOTE: MONDAY 29th is a BANK HOLIDAY. NO 9am MASS and NO CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

LAST WEEKS 2 COLLECTIONS: £530; 2. £206

THIS WEEK COLLECTION: Upkeep of the church

NEXT WEEK TWO COLLECTIONS: 1. Diocesan Priest's Welfare
2. Running expenses of the Church

FRIDAY BUILDING FUND COLLECTION: £340

SILVER CIRCLE: Marie Craig; Rosaleen Rice.

CEMETERY SUNDAYS DATES AND TIMES: Hannahstown – Sunday, 28th May at 3pm

CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE: Is a international development organization based in Derry that works to promote and protect the rights of children who are caught in the crossfire of extreme poverty. With diocesan approval, Fr .Maningi will speak at Saturday and Sunday Masses and there will be a door collection.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Jesus is taken up to heaven in the presence of the apostles.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 47:2-3,6-9*

Sing praise to God as he mounts his throne.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

God raised Jesus from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 28:16-20*

Jesus charges his disciples to make disciples of all nations and promises to be with them forever.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop ([Matthew 17:1-8](#)). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount. Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. [Matthew 28:9-10](#)). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, "to make disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared his disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the twelve apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. [Matthew 10:1-15](#)). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the eleven are told to go to "all nations." The mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to baptize and to teach.

Jesus commissions his disciples to baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus." The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue to teach in his name and to bring others into the community of disciples through baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

EXTERNAL REFURBISHMENT AND INTERNAL REDECORATION OF ST MARY'S CHURCH: PLEASE NOTE THAT FOR SAFETY REASONS THE GROTTA AREA IS OUT OF BOUNDS UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE WORK. Fr. James

LOUGH DERG 2017:- Season opens for One Day Retreats on Monday 1st May. Retreats continue on May 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 & 29. Advance booking is essential. Tel. 071 9861518 (from NI 0035371 9861518) or email info@loughderg.org. The Three Day Pilgrimage season begins on Thursday 1st June, pre-booking not required. You are invited to walk in the spiritual footsteps of your ancestors and be part of the unbroken link of Lough Derg as a place of continuous prayer for over 50 generations (1,500 years).

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN (ONE DAY) PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK, led by Bishop Noel Treanor, will take place on Sunday, 11th June. Buses will be leaving from various parishes throughout the Diocese. For further information please contact Fr Vincent Cushnahan, the Pilgrimage Director, at: cush25@hotmail.com

ANNUAL DIOCESAN COLLECTION FOR OUR STUDENT PRIESTS SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2017) There are currently eight young men in training for priesthood for the diocese, one of whom, Manuelito is a deacon. The other students are Tony, Christopher, Stofan, David, Christopher, John, Kevin. Please remember them in your prayers. The second collection on this the Sixth Sunday of Easter is the yearly collection for the education of our student priests. Thank you for your support of this collection last year. Your continued support of this annual church collection on Sunday 21st May 2017 is again requested. Your financial contribution is another concrete way of supporting our students as they journey towards priesthood for service in our parishes.

A PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN

**Heavenly Father, in your love for us,
protect against the wickedness
of the devil, those helpless little ones
to whom you have given the gift of life.
Touch with pity the hearts of those women
pregnant in our world today
who are not thinking of motherhood.
Help them to see the child they carry
is made in your image, as well as theirs,
made for eternal life.
Dispel their fear and selfishness
and give them true womanly hearts to
love their babies and give them birth and
all the needed care that a mother can give.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
Our Lord who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever. Amen**

