

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Chapel Lane, Belfast BT1 1JJ

Tel: 028 90 32 04 82: www.stmarysbelfast.org

E-mail: administatorofstmarys@btinternet.com

Priests: Fr James Boyle MHM: Fr. John Nevin MHM: Fr. Gerald Doyle MHM

Registered Charity N0: 103983

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) 29nd April 2018

MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Sat : 6pm 28/4: A prayer of thanksgiving
Sun : 10am 29/4: Margaret Vernon (sick)
Mon: 9am 30/4: Carmel Mc Veigh RIP
Mon: 1pm 30/4: Roy Weldon RIP 1st Anniversary
Tues: 9am 1/5: Francis Mallon RIP
Tues: 1pm 1/5: Brian O' Connor RIP
Wed: 9am 2/5: Peter Fitzpatrick RIP
Wed: 1pm 2/5: Angeline Kelly RIP
Thurs: 9am 3/5: Peter Fitzpatrick RIP
Thurs: 1pm 3/5: Claire Mailey RIP
Fri: 9am 4/5: Wellbeing of Uncle James
Fri 1pm 4/5: *Anniversary of Fr Roger Mc Gorty RIP*
Fri: 6pm 4/5: Mrs Walsh
Sat: 9am 5/5: Wellbeing of Jim Mc Anespy (sick)
Sat: 1pm 5/5: Elizabeth Stewart RIP
Sat: 6pm 5/5: Ned Mathers RIP

Let us remember the SICK in our Prayers: Paddy Gilliland, Michael Ryan, Peter Monaghan, Joe Faszczka & Betty, Jack Burns, Jan & Malachy, Martin Donaghy, 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, Briege, Kumacho, Nora Mc Mahon, Marie Mc Guigan, Paul Kelly, Annie Crawford, Nuala Mailey, Paul Mc Larnon, Patsy Mullan, Larry Mc Gurk, Bernadette Boswell, Seán & Phyliss Smyth, , Linda McDonald, Christopher Browne, Kevin Heaney, Louise Green, Marian Hunter, Colm Gallagher, Margaret Mc Cafferty, Anna, Kohl Thelis, Deirdre O'Neill, Bridie Mc Crossan, Brenda McKervey, Margaret McCrisky, Margaret Mc Kenna, Jean Kelly, Joseph Duffy, Elizabeth Magee, Joel Rivera, Nora McDonagh, Maire Mc Kenna, Eddie O' Neill, Billy Houston, Mick Hughes, Annie Mc Nally. Patrick McAnulty; Tony Lindsay, Paddy McGeogh; Alex Vernon, Kathleen McMullan, Sean Mc Donnell, Eadie Staton, Gretta Whyte, Eileen Foley, Howard Marshall, Michael O' Neill (Canada). Irene Lee, Philomena Lee; Anne Marie, Martin Jones; Jeannette Lee, Jim McAnespy, Charlotte Miskelly, Christopher Brown, Nell Mathews.

ONE COLLECTION THIS WEEK 29/04

LAST WEEK COLLECTION: £456
THISWEEK COLLECTION : Running expenses of the church.
TWO COLLECTIONS NEXT WEEK COLLECTION 6/05:
Upkeep of the church.
Diocesan Priests Welfare
FRIDAY BUILDING FUND COLLECTION 20/04: £231
SILVER CIRCLE: Nora McMahan; Jim Mc Dermot, Alex Johnson

(PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE YOUR TROCAIRE BOXES TO ONE OF THE PRIESTS or to a recognised person . **DO NOT** LEAVE THEM IN THE CHURCH)

SAVE LIVES, SAVE THE 8TH: Pro-life Rally in Dublin, Saturday 12th May. The Referendum is fast approaching so NOW is the time to play our part.

A bus is being organised from Belfast. For further details contact Claire on

07740 677256 www.loveboth.ie

RADIO MARIA IRELAND is an Irish-run Catholic Talk-Radio Station. Prayer, Catechesis, Uplifting music, Talks, Interviews and Testimonies – all commercial free – Listen via FREE App “RADIO MARIA IRELAND”, streaming on www.radiomaria.ie or via PHONE – get live radio feed by calling +353 (0) 1 437 3277 (no extra charges apply). Please join our growing faith family

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31*
Paul is accepted by the apostles at Jerusalem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 22:26-27,28,30,31-32*
The whole world shall praise the Lord.

Second Reading: *1 John 3:18-24*
God commands us to believe in Jesus Christ and to love one another.

Gospel Reading: *John 15:1-8*
Jesus teaches that he is the vine and that his disciples are the branches.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.

Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

Loyola Press

VACANCY – HOUSEKEEPER

The Parish of St Mary's, 25 Marquis Street Belfast, is seeking to recruit a Housekeeper for 24 hours per week. Full details relating to the vacancy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://www.downandconnor.org/job-vacancies/> and the Community NI website, from Monday 30th April 2018.

Terms and Conditions relating to the role can also be accessed there, together with the Job Description and Employment Application form. Application packs are also available from the Parish Office.

We welcome applications from anyone who feels they meet the criteria, and are interested in playing an active part in the Parish.

Closing date for receipt of applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 11th May 2018.

LIVING CHURCH DOWN & CONNOR LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE

The *sixth* Living Church Lough Derg 3 day Pilgrimage will take place this year from **Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July 2018**. The pilgrimage will be the traditional three day format.

Those who took part in the pilgrimage over the last few years spoke of the many blessings they received from being on the island of Lough Derg, as countless people have throughout the years. There is quietness and deep spirituality to be found there that is very special. Please consider coming along. The cost of the pilgrimage is **£65**. *We are now offering two departure points Belfast and Ballycastle*. For details of travel arrangements and to book a place please call the **Living Church Office on 02890690920** or email

livingchurch@downandconnor.org

by Friday 15th June. Registration forms on request from Living Church Office or your Parish Office

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