

# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Registered Charity N0: 103983

**Sixth Sunday of Easter (Cycle B) 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Sat : 6pm 5/: Ned Mathers RIP

Sun : 10am 6/5: Wellbeing of Fr Vincent

Mon: 9am 7/5: NO MASS/ NO CONFESSIONS

Mon: 1pm 7/5: Felix O' Kane RIP

Tues: 9am 8/5: Peter Fitzpatrick RIP

Tues: 1pm 8/5: Wellbeing of Sarah Mc Gloughlin

Wed: 9am 9/5: Peter Fitzpatrick RIP

Wed: 1pm 9/5: Cecilia Marten RIP

Thurs: 9am 10/5: Patsy Martin RIP

Thurs: 1pm 10/5: Peter Fitzpatrick RIP

Fri: 9am 11/5: Nina Brigid Quinn & Imelda Gavin

Fri 1pm 11/5: John Donoghry RIP (A.M)

Fri: 6pm 11/5: For Saving the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment

Sat: 9am 12/5: Kevin Killen

Sat: 1pm 12/5: L.O.M. Mass for Venerable Edel Quinn

Sat: 6pm 12/5: Months Mind for Sheila Grego 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 McCrarkin, 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.

## TWO COLLECTIONS THIS WEEK 6/05

LAST WEEK COLLECTION: £485

THIS WEEK TWO COLLECTIONS: 6/05: 1) Upkeep of the church.

2) Diocesan Priests Welfare

NEXT WEEK TWO COLLECTIONS :

1. Running expenses of the church

2. Diocesan collection for seminarians

FRIDAY BUILDING FUND COLLECTION 20/04: £205

SILVER CIRCLE: Mary Shields; Marion Jones.

(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](http://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](http://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 10:25-26,34-35,44-48*

The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to Cornelius and his household, and they are baptized.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4*

A song of praise for God's salvation

**Second Reading:** *1 John 4:7-10*

God is love.

**Gospel Reading:** *John 15:9-17*

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

**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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:livingchurch@downandconnor.org)**

**by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> 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