

St. Nicholas News Francis St. Parish

01-5157512 ----- 01-5611390 - Working with James's St. and Meath St. Parishes



Third Sunday of Lent — 03 March 2024

THREE PARISHES WORKING TOGETHER



Dear Friends, the reps from the three parishes are still working together to plan a future for the Christian Community in this area. Meath St., James's St. & Francis St. are not simply trying to share resources, we are working to create a different model of Church. Up to now the priest has been at the centre of parish life and to a large extent everything revolved around him. We are all well aware that there are

fewer men in Ministerial Priesthood these days. The Archbishop is of the opinion that in five years time there may be little more than fifty active priests for the entire Diocese. That alone tells us that the model of Church we have relied on up to now will no longer work. However it would be a mistake to think that this is simply an exercise in finding ways to keep the 'ship' afloat or to replace priests. Baptism is our first calling as laity and priests. In baptism we are anointed 'Priest, Prophet and King'. The process we are engaged in, is one of releasing the vast potential of the Priesthood of the Laity. This is not a threat to Ministerial Priesthood. It will allow our Christian Community to bloom, breathe new life and make the 'Word' more visibly 'Flesh'. This will of course mean a change to how we operate. We have already seen some changes. Change can feel uncomfortable and at times a little threatening. As Christians we are on a journey, one which is led and directed by Christ. A journey is only possible if we are prepared to leave the place where we presently reside. Journeys can be exciting, even frightening but ultimately they lead us to a new horizon. As we approach the celebration of Holy Week and Easter you will see some changes in our parishes this year. Not every Service will be celebrated in every church. We will join together for some of them. I hope to publish the full list of Services for James's St., Meath St., Francis St., and John's Lane next week.

You will remember that last year we re-arranged the weekend masses. We also said we would review the situation again this year. From 01 April the 6.30pm Saturday mass in James's St. will be discontinued. This is part of the process of preparing for the possibility of having even fewer priests in the area. I know these changes can be upsetting but I hope they will leave us ready to face the challenges that will inevitably come our way. As you know there are days in Meath St. and James's St., when it's not possible to have mass. There is now a Eucharistic Service on Fridays at 10am in James's St., followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In Francis St. there are Eucharistic Services on Weds and Sat with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Sat until noon. We hope to have a Eucharistic Service in Meath St. in the near future. The shape of our Church is changing. In the future we may be numerically smaller but I believe we will be a more effective Christian Community offering this area real hope. The world can seem very bleak at times, but the love of God made flesh in Jesus Christ has overcome the bleakness and there is a new horizon which offers 'life to the full'.

Fr. Martin

LAUDATE SI AWARD

is for youth and young adults who want to live out their Christian calling to protect and care for God's Creation. The award builds from bronze to silver to gold level and can be completed in three consecutive years or when the time is right. An information session giving an overview of the award will take place on Monday, March 11, at 7:30pm on Zoom. Sign up by filling in the registration form at <https://forms.office.com/e/0wGitHHuwx/>.

All queries can be sent to natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie.

John's Lane

From Mon 11 March to Thurs 14 March inclusive, there is no daily mass in John's Lane as the Community are at Chapter during this time. There will be a Prayer Service each day.



Liberties 5K Fun Run

Run for your lives! Looks set to be a sporty one around Meath Street this weekend as the Liberties Running Club hold their first 5km Fun Run. Its all booked out, so if you'd like to take part in future runs, check them out on Insta @the_libertiesrunningclub



Women's Day

Sources of Power - A Women's Day Celebration of performance, poetry, dance and music. Thursday 7th March at 7pm - St Andrew's Resource Centre, Rialto.



Bereavement Support

The Irish Hospice Foundation provides a free Bereavement Support Line. This National Freephone Service is available from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Friday, by calling 1800 807077. For more info www.hospicefoundation.ie



Remembered This Weekend

6pm Mass Saturday
Marie Kelly (Month's Mind)
Simon & Josie Dunne
Pauline Marshall
Michael & Eileen Gayson
Paddy & May Hoare
Catherine & John McQuaid

12noon Mass Sunday
Margaret, James & Seamus McGuire
Roman Laussermayer
Simon Meyler
Michael Nolan

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Penitential Rite

As we enter into the mystery of Gods' wisdom, let us be mindful of his great love for us.

You lead us to your light and life. Lord have mercy

You show us your truth and love. Christ have mercy

You ask us to follow your way. Lord have mercy

May our wise and ever merciful God, forgive us our sin and bring us finally to everlasting life. Amen

Exodus 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

John 2:13-25

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples

remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six Years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Prayer of the Faithful

God who loves us, you are present with us in every aspect of our lives. We thank you. Lord hear us

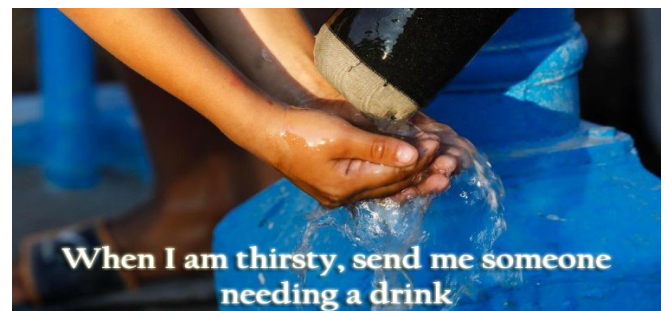
God who loves us, you grant the gift of your Word which strengthens us to live our lives fully. We thank you. Lord hear us

God who loves us, you call us to belong to one another, so that we are never alone on the journey of life. We thank you. Lord hear us

In a spirit of joy and hope, we remember those who have died and gone to the Lord. Let the goodness of their lives inspire us to be more faithful to God's Word. Lord hear us

Lord, you know our deepest needs. Help us to recognise that in You alone, can they be truly fulfilled. Lord hear us

In quiet, we call to mind all who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us



Reflection

Lord, when I am hungry, give me someone in need of food; when I am thirsty, send me someone needing a drink; when I am cold, send me someone to warm; when I am grieved, offer me someone to console; when my cross grows heavy, let me share another's cross; when I think only of myself, draw my thoughts to another. When I am poor, lead me to someone who is in need; When I have no time left, send me someone whom I might help for a few moments; When I am humiliated, help me to find someone to praise; When I am discouraged, send me someone to encourage; When I need to be understood by others, send me someone to care for; and, When I only think of myself, attract my attention to someone else.