

The ASCENSION of the LORD

Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30 (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 9.00, 9.45(Convent),
10.30,12.00

Weekdays:

10.00 Monday – Friday

7.30 Tuesday only



Parish Staff

Fr. Joe McDonald P.P. Tel 6 265 119

Fr John Atoh Parish Chaplain

Sr. Anne Marie Moynihan Parish Sister

Secretary: Moya Doyle Tel 6 265 695

Parish Office: 9.30 - 2.00 Mon to Thu

Email:

stmatthewsparishcentre@gmail.com

Sacristy: Tel 6 264 448

Masses, Baptisms arranged, Certs

Baptism

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month

1st Sunday of each month

Preparation meetings
for Parents and Godparents
are held twice each month.

Details available in sacristy.

A month's notice is required.

Eucharistic Adoration

Mon 10.30 – 4.00

Wed 10.30 – 9.00

Fri 10.30 – 9.00



Divine Mercy Meeting

Every Wed Evening @ 8.00
in the Prayer Room

Parish Centre

Tea/Coffee & Chat Mon - Fri
after 10.00 Mass



The **Ascension**
of the
Lord

Date	Time	Mass Intentions	
Sat 07 May	6.30	Ann McHenry Cecelia Boothman	Paul McHenry Harry Boothman
Sun 08 May	9.00	Dooley Family	McCann Family Mary Walsh
Sun 08 May	12.00	Peter Balstiy	Ben Doyle
First Holy Communion Preparation			
Tue 10 May	7.30	May Brett	John Brett
Fri 13 May	10.00	Elizabeth O'Neill	John O'Neill Patricia O'Neill

Crosscare Youth Services

The Annual Collection for Crosscare Youth Services of the Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses
Next Sat/Sun 14/15 May



Recent Funerals from St. Matthew's:

Mary McCann	Pascal Cody
Vinny Tierney	Alfred Hill
Selina Hall	Baby Cian

First Holy Communion

will take place at 12.00 Mass on
Sunday May 15 and 29

COMING SOON TO ST. MATTHEW'S

VITTORIO MICHELI

63rd MIRACLE OF LOURDES
Introduced by Morgan Sharpe

6.30 Mass Saturday May 21
Followed by blessing with relic

**Ballyfermot Library
Bealtaine Festival**

The Film Board presents
it's collection of After '16 short films
Tues 10th & 17th May @ 5.00pm
Admission Free but booking essential
Phone:6269324

Church Collection Totals

Week Beginning 24/4

First Collection	1063
Ukraine Collection	1170
Family Offering	875

St. Vincent DePaul

Monthly Collection for April: €275

Our Lady's Hospice

Harold's Cross
Church Gate Collection
after all the Masses this Sat/Sun

FAITH MOMENT

We ask Mary, his mother and our mother,
the mother of Salvation
and the mother of the Church,
the first evangeliser,
to draw us ever closer to her Son
and to remind him constantly of our need.

(Share the Good News p 225)

BOOK OF THE WEEK

BERNADETTE OF LOURDES

Rene Laurentin

Darton Longman & Todd

Reprint 2001 pp 240

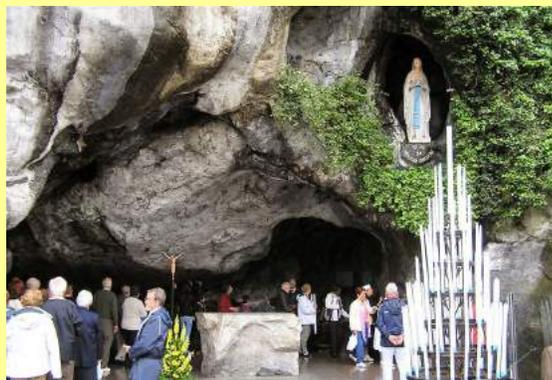
Dead at thirty five, after long illness,
the often forgotten saint of Lourdes
is a great story of inspiration.

Gospel Readings for the Week

Mon 9 May	Jn 16:29-33	In the world you will have trouble, but be brave: I have conquered the world.
Tue 10	Jn 17: 1-11	I pray for them
Wed 11	Jn 17: 11-19	Your word is truth
Thu 12	Jn 17: 20-26	May they all be one
Fri 13	Lk 11: 27-28	Still happier those who hear the Word of God (Feast: Our Lady of Fatyima)
Sat 14	Jn 15: 9-17	Remain in my love (Feast: St. Matthias)
Sun15	Pentecost Sunday	

Anam Cara

is holding its monthly Parent Evening
on Monday 9th of May
from 7:30 to 9:00
in Dominic's Community Centre,
Tallaght, Dublin 24.
All Anam Cara Services are available free
of charge to bereaved parents



**Feast of St. Matthew
Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

17 – 22 September 2016 — Hotel Padoue
Cost €739 per person sharing
(inclusive of Airport Taxes and Insurance)
Single Room Supplement €175 per person
All Meals Included
Deposit €200 per person

***Booking forms available
from Parish Centre***

Rumblings from the Bunker

MARY - FORGOTTEN TREASURE OR SOLITARY BOAST?

Amidst the bombs and bullets, that unfortunately were an almost daily feature of life in West Belfast in the 1970s, came the arrival of the beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima. I am unclear on the actual date, but I remember the great excitement that accompanied the procession through the streets. I remember the comfort of the Marian hymns that we sang: O Mary of Graces, I'll sing a Hymn to Mary, The Bells of the Angelus, and of course the bursting pride in our hearts, when we sang loudly, the great anthem, Hail Queen of Heaven. I remember the incense, a smell I love to this day. I remember the soothing murmur of the crowd at prayer. The drone of the ever vigilant helicopter, deadened by our prayer, and the stink of burning tyres from the riot up the road, was slowly ushered away by the rich sacred holy smoke. The whole thing, which was led by a holy Dominican, was meant to give us hope, and a little taster of peace. It did just that, and more. After all, was not the title, Queen of Peace, one of the special names we gave to Mary. This beautiful statue stayed in our parish for a week or ten days, but when it left us, it left behind a powerful legacy. Small little groups of people began gathering at street corners to say the rosary together. This praying of the rosary was always offered for peace. I remember well, my maternal grandmother, long after she was diagnosed with throat cancer, going down faithfully to the bottom of the street, to participate in this ritual. These women, and men, gave us an example, never to be forgotten. They sanctified the war torn streets of the beleaguered city with their prayer. In their prayer they asked Mary to intercede for us. This was one of my earliest experiences of people turning to Mary in a time of trouble, both personally and communally. All that is over forty years ago, and I have said many Hail Marys, and often sang Marian Hymns since then. I have had the privilege of being in Lourdes, Medjugorje and of course Knock, many times. Yet, with all this, as we begin another May I find myself reflecting somewhat wistfully on my relationship with Mary.

I find it difficult to separate out a rather sugary, nostalgic devotion from a healthy gospel based relationship with the mother of Jesus. I mean this in my own life, I am not commenting on how you relate to Mary. Whether I am that little boy, standing on the edge of those street rosaries for peace, or I am that young Christian Brother, watching Brother Aidan with such energy, and absolute love for, as he called her the Blessed Virgin, building his famous May altar, or maybe it was the little tear for another Mary, Mary Bridget, my own mother as I listened to Canon Sydney MacEwan sing 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest' on the radio last night. Whatever it is, I ask myself have I lost the real Mary? Indeed did I ever find her? Sometimes I find myself setting up a false dichotomy, along the lines of: Mary in popular devotion versus the Mary in the gospel. Of course the reality is, there is only one Mary. It's not either or, but in fact, Mary is all of this, the Gospel, the Apparitions, the messages, the devotions and much more besides. However, my contention is, that without Mary as revealed in the Gospel we are on shaky ground. I believe that the acid test as to how sound and healthy our Marian devotion is, is the degree to which it is rooted in sacred scripture. So, who then is this Mary in the Gospel?

The truth is, she is more beautiful than we can actually take in. It is a beauty that has a depth and mystery that immediately singles her out. In his memorable poem, *The Virgin*, Wordsworth describes her as 'our tainted natures solitary boast.' This places her at the centre of our broken humanity. Just, as when we leave Jesus confined to the tabernacle, we fail both him, and ourselves, so to, when we leave Mary in the grotto, or swirling around in the clouds of the fantastic, we are the ones who lose out. She is more real than that. Perhaps more than anything else we need Mary. We need Mary because she is the one who always, and resolutely, brings us to Jesus. When we forget about her we neglect our greatest spiritual life line. Without Mary we tread water. If we let her, she will bring us to her Son.

I am in awe as she holds up the newly born little infant. Look, this is Yeshua. I hear her lightly call the boy into their Nazareth home. I see her smile at Cana, with quiet confidence, 'Do whatever he tells you'. I find it hard to look at her, as she looks at him, bloodied and battered, and her poor heartbroken. Yeshua she gasps, my beautiful Yeshua! As we wait on the Holy Spirit, next week at Pentecost, as they remained locked in that Upper Room, terrified, what sustained them? What kept them going? The promises of Jesus saw them through, and no one kept those promises more alive than his mother. I see her in the Upper Room, moving from one to the other, lovingly reminding them of all that he had done and said: ministering love, hope, and joy to them: nurturing the infant Church, as she had nurtured the infant Jesus.

So my friends this May, by all means, bring the flowers, say the rosary, sing the hymns, but let us resolve by the end of the month to know Mary that little bit better: to know her courage, strength, service, obedience and above all the purity of her love: to meet her afresh and to hear her gently whisper our name, as she whispered Yeshua's: to befriend her again, as our greatest guide and companion, on this our pilgrim journey.