

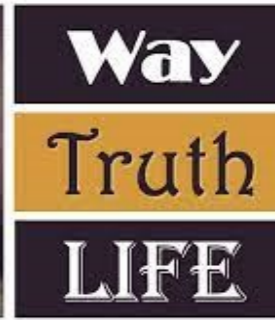
St Mary's Parish, Drogheda

Sunday 2nd May, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Easter

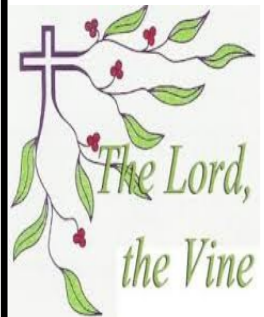
Fr Phil Gaffney PP
Fr Ciprian Solomon CC
St Mary's Presbytery
Dublin Road ☎ 9834958

St Mary's Parish Centre
24 James Street
☎ 9834587 ☎ 9838347
Email address stmarysdrogheda@gmail.com
Parish website www.stmarysdrogheda.ie

Hospital Visitation: is not possible at the moment, however please continue to inform Fr Phil or Fr Ciprian if a relative is ill or in hospital.



Fifth Sunday of Easter



Have you ever visited a vineyard, with its rows of vines, heavy with clusters of ripe grapes? If you're not familiar with vines, think of an apple tree laden with apples, or a fruit bush ripe for picking. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine to describe his relationship with his disciples. He tells them that he is the vine, and they are the branches. The life of Jesus flows into us and sustains us, and this is the reason our lives can bear fruit in love, in kindness, patience, compassion and welcome.

The symbolism of the vine works on many levels. If a branch is separated from the vine, it cannot flourish on its own. It must be connected to the vine from which it gets its nourishment. Each of us must be firmly rooted in Jesus and nourish that relationship. He invites us to 'remain' in him - to rest in him, to be part of him. And if you look at a vine plant, often its branches are so entangled, it can be hard to know where one ends and another begins. We note that Jesus is addressing the disciples as a group rather than as individuals: 'you are the branches'. We are a community, and we grow together, bound together by the love of God. Today, we reflect on what it means to be so intimately connected with Jesus, the true vine. We bring to mind the many gifts he has given us, and the ways in which his love bears fruit in our lives.

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

The Rosary on the First Friday at 7pm.

A ZOOM rosary is recited on the first Friday of each month, takes about 20 minutes. The contact details are Meeting ID: 898 472 7430 Then type in passcode: **rosary1**. Organised by the Knights of St. Columbanus.

Mass Intentions for week beginning Sunday 2nd May, 2021

Sunday 2nd May	10:00am	Ted Dyer <i>Month's Memory</i> & Joe Clarke; Paddy Gallagher <i>Month's Memory</i> ; Maureen Gaffney <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Lally Mooney <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Mary Nolan; Joe & Anna Vaughey; Frank & Mary Smith & James Smith; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke
Monday	10:00am	Monica Mc Carry
Tuesday	10:00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	10:00am	Special Intention
Thursday	10:00am	Special Intention
Friday 7th May	10:00am	First Friday - Mass for All on the Parish List of the Dead
Saturday	10:00am	Catherine Fanning <i>First Anniversary</i> ; Paddy Kelly & Aileen Kelly
Sunday 9th May	10:00am	Alice Tully <i>First Anniversary</i> & Paul Tully; Nicky Black <i>First Anniversary</i> & Philip McEntee; Michael, Mary-Kate & Mena Rourke



St Mary's Schedule (On webcam only.)

Mass will be celebrated privately each day at 10:00am and will be available via webcam. You can join us by going online to our website live stream.

We have changed our webcam provider. Our new provider is www.churchservices.tv. The Church will be open each day from 11.00am to 4.00pm so that people can call in to say a prayer or light a candle. Copies of the parish bulletin will be available in the Church.

Adoration in the main Church Monday to Friday 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The return to the public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments commence on May 10th. This is a source of joy and hope to our parish community.



Sacramental Dates for 2021

First Holy Communion - Will be postponed until September

Confirmation - Will take place in June, exact date to be advised by Bishop Tom.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

In a relationship, connectedness is important. Relationships cannot be taken for granted and need time and care to be life-giving. What does your experience tell you of the truth of this in your relationships, with God, with your friends, with your family, with communities or groups to which you belong? Over the past year our usual relationships have been disrupted by coronavirus restrictions on social gatherings. How has this impacted on your family, parish, and other groups to which you belong? What creative ways have you, and others, devised to keep your social life alive? In THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL Pope Francis wrote 'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.' He goes on to suggest that when individuals, or groups, focus on Jesus there is an increase of energy and vitality. Have you seen this happen? The parable also reminds us that we are not the source of our own life. It is a gift from God, from our parents, and from all who have nourished us. Give thanks for those who have been a source of life for you.



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A QR code (short for "quick response" code) is a type of barcode that contains a matrix of dots. It can be scanned using a QR scanner or a smartphone with built-in camera. Once scanned, software on the device converts the dots within the code into numbers or a string of characters. For example, scanning a QR code with your phone might open a URL in your phone's web browser. This QR code on our parish bulletin and on our website can be used to donate money to our parish. This is another way of assisting people to donate online. Thank you for your generosity and support.

A prayer for those who died...



Paddy Yore, Haggardstown
Mary Kearns (née Hanley), Santry & late of Old Hill
Anna Sharkey (Née Kiernan), Drogheda & Castlebellingham
Patrick Reynolds, Belfast.
May they rest in peace

Supporting Our Parish:

Parishioners can leave their envelopes or a donation to the parish in the boxes at the back of the church or you can now use the **donate button** facility on our website. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks. Keep safe and well.