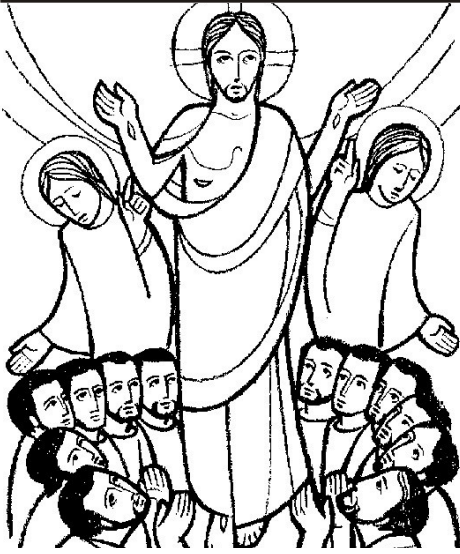


PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, Ascension of the Lord (A), 21st MAY 2023



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension marks the beginning of the time of the Church. The solemn language of today's gospel reading marks it clearly. The institution is already beginning to take shape: baptism is the rite of initiation into it, in some such way as marriage is the initiation of family. The Church of this gospel reading is the Church here below, made up of human beings, mandated to teach, to preach and to initiate new members through baptism.

There is a contrasting image of Church in the second reading, Ephesians 1:17-23. There Paul tells the same story: "God...raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places." But the angle of view is different. The Church that is born of this event seems purely inner and spiritual, without apostles, without baptism, without institutions. This Church is the Body of Christ, waiting here below, striving to come to perfection, member by member, so as to be like its Head and to follow him into glory and become "one body and one spirit" with him.

Are there two Churches, then, or perhaps two visions of Church? The Vatican II document on the Church (Lumen Gentium), is clear: "The society structured with hierarchical elements and the mystical Body of Christ – the visible

society and the spiritual community, the earthly Church and the Church endowed with heavenly riches – are not to be thought of as two realities. On the contrary, they form one complete reality which comes together from a combination of human and divine elements" (no. 8). It is sometimes hard work to hold the two together, especially today when many are disillusioned by the scandals within the organisation. But battered and broken though it is, the Church has not been abandoned by Christ. St Augustine wrote, "Just as he did not abandon heaven when he came among us, he does not abandon us when he returns there. He is raised above the heavens, yet he suffers all the anguish that we, the members of his body, suffer." "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24).

Donagh O'Shea OP, www.goodnews.ie

NOTICES

COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1551

Share: €717

Envelope: €15

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

You are warmly invited to join in a Novena to the Holy Spirit – a period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The Novena will take place in the nine days **from 21st to 29th May** beginning today, on the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, through Pentecost and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church.

NOVENA PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us
Open our eyes to see God's grace around us
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us
Open our hearts to welcome God among us*

Send us out with joy to live the Gospel

Send us out with peace to act as one

Send us out with love to build up hope

VISITING CHOIR

The Choir from the Church of St. Joseph and St. Benildus, Waterford, under their Director, Mr. Joe O'Beirne, will be combining with our own Choir during the 12 o'clock Mass next Sunday, 28th May, Pentecost Sunday. They will be singing some familiar hymns as well as some that are newly composed.

TALLAGHT CHORAL COMMUNITY CONCERT

Tallaght Choral Society
CONDUCTED BY
LYNSEY CALLAGHAN
PRESENTS
BRAHMS, BEACH,
BRITTEN AND BEYOND
WITH PATRICE KEEGAN, ORGAN
FRI 26 MAY
PERFORMANCE AT 8PM
IN WHITEFRIAR ST. CHURCH
56 AUNGIER ST. | DUBLIN 2
Tickets: €20 available at the door
or text 085 125 9907
www.tallaghtchoral.ie

SUNDAY WORD GROUP

A meeting for anyone interested in reflecting on next Sunday's Readings for Mass will be held in the Large Parlour of the Priory this **Wednesday, 24th May, starting at 8.00pm**. The meeting will be led by a member of the Parish Team and will end at 9.00pm. All are welcome.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ann Dodrill**, Greenhills Road, whose funeral was from this Church during the week.

READ OUR WEBPAGE

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