

# St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. --- 01-4530387 --- 01-5611390



19 March 2017

## PRESIDENT HIGGINS - PATRICK'S DAY ADDRESS



On this St. Patrick's Day 2017 may I, on this special day for the Irish at home and abroad, send my warmest greetings as Uachtarán na hÉireann President of Ireland to Irish people, wherever they may be, and in whatever circumstance, and greetings too to all those who are joining us in celebrating our National Day and our rich cultural heritage.

It is a source of pride to all of us Irish that our National Day is celebrated not just here in Ireland, but in countless places around the world where members of the Irish global family have been able to make their homes.

We are, as a people with a wide diaspora, happy to have the opportunity to share our national day with those who will join us in our celebration of our culture, our songs and our language.

As a migrant people, the Irish have brought their culture and traditions to many new homelands, and in doing so they have been peerless ambassadors for our nation. It is thanks to the millions of Irish emigrants that Irishness, and our Irish national day, is celebrated with such affection and enthusiasm all over the globe.

It is appropriate that we celebrate as our National Day the Day of St. Patrick, whose own life story was one of hardship and migration. St. Patrick, we are told, was trafficked into Ireland as a slave, managed to escape, but chose to leave his native land again and return to Ireland.

In the centuries that followed, migration has remained a constant feature of the Irish experience, defining us as a people, and shaping our outlook on the world. Since taking office I have set out to visit many of our Irish communities abroad, to be given the opportunity to hear their experiences and to connect with their hopes and concerns. Then too, over 80,000 people have visited Sabina and I at Áras an Uachtaráin - people who are active in community groups and civil society organisations who are building an inclusive, sustainable and fair society. Their passion, energy and commitment are building blocks of our nation, and their practical actions of solidarity provide the threads that make up the multi-coloured tapestry that is our Irish nation today.

Today, on St. Patrick's Day, we celebrate Irishness at its best, and we reflect on the impact our culture and heritage have had around the world. This Spring, as nature signals the beginning of the season of hope and renewal, let us all work to build the future we hope for and that is rich in shared possibilities.

Let us renew our commitment to build on the rich seam of Irish achievements and creativity, in fields as diverse as the arts, science, humanitarianism, politics and business, and work, together, towards achieving the best version of ourselves, for all of us Irish, for our children, our children's children and for all those with whom we share this vulnerable planet.

To my fellow Irish citizens, and to our friends celebrating the day with us: May I wish you a happy and enjoyable St. Patrick's Day 2017.

Beir beannacht.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

May the Irish hills caress you.  
May her lakes and rivers bless you.  
May the luck of the Irish enfold you.  
May the blessings of Saint Patrick behold you.  
May there always be work for your hands to do,  
May your purse always hold a coin or two.  
May the sun always shine warm on your windowpane,  
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.  
May the hand of a friend always be near you,  
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



## NOTICES

### Money Matters

Sunday 12 March 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: €245

2nd Collection: €275

Accord: €90

Family Offering: €376

St. Vincent de Paul: €380



### Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Georgina Alford, John, Josephine and Mary Hannon, James and Mary Kent, Josey Edwards.

Sun 11.30: Michael Byrne, Thomas Carton 9th Ann, Patty O'Neill, Carmel Mennella 7th Ann.



### Raise the Dough

Crumlin Parish is inviting other parishes to get involved in the campaign Raise the Dough in aid of ISPC Childline from 27th March - 7th April. Organise a Bake within your office or group and hold a bake sale - Register today to take part and help raise some "dough" for Ireland's 24 hour listening service for Children. For more information: RaiseTheDough.ie or email: Susie at shalpin@ispc.ie



### Pro-Cathedral

From Ashes to Light - The Lent Readings for prayer and preaching with Fr Kieran J. O'Mahony, OSA continues on the Thursdays of Lent 23rd & 30th March. Mass at 11.00am - Presentation from 11.30am- 12.40pm - Mass at 12.45pm. LENT 4 (23 March) The Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41) LENT 5 (30 March) The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-15)



### In Rathmines Parish Church

A lecture on 'The Bible for Grown Ups' by Sean Goan from 7.30-9.00pm on Wednesday 22nd March. Sean Goan is a Teacher and Scripture Scholar who has studied the Bible in Rome and Jerusalem.

## TWO CATHEDRALS LIT IN GREEN



A unique event in the city of Armagh took place to mark the eve of Saint Patrick's Day. Both of the city's cathedrals are dedicated to the island's Patron Saint, Saint Patrick, and both were illuminated in green to mark the occasion. A Vigil walk between the two illuminated cathedrals

began at 9.00pm at the Church of Ireland Cathedral and moved to the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Archbishop Richard Clarke led those gathered in prayer at Saint Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral at 9.00pm and then guided the group in torchlight to Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral where it was welcomed by Archbishop Eamon Martin. This symbolic expression of the unity of the Churches was a reflection of Saint Patrick's own journey of uniting the Irish people with Christianity.



## SUNDAY LITURGY 3rd SUNDAY LENT

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 94

Response: O that today you would listen to his voice. :  
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. R/
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. R/
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' R/

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the  
living water, so that I may never get thirsty.  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water'. 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life'. 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband'. He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything'. 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him. Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about'. So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said: 'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world'.