

St. Nicholas News

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

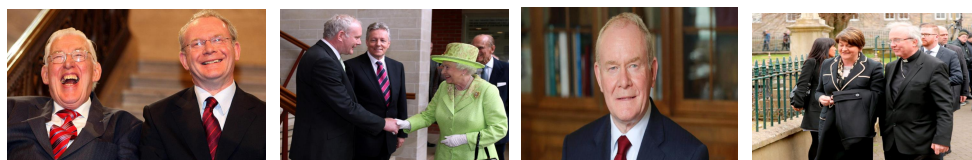


26 March 2017

THE FUNERAL OF MARTIN MCGUINNESS



On a day when symbolism and historic ground-breaking went hand in hand, the normally self-assured Arlene Foster looked nervous and pensive as she took her first tentative steps into what she once might have regarded as the lion's den of Martin McGuinness's Bogside. But the response from the Catholic faithful at his hilltop Long Tower church near the scene of the Bloody Sunday killings seemed to put her at her ease as the mourners acknowledged a galvanising, unifying gesture of goodwill with not just a round of applause, but also with cheers and a standing ovation. Even ex-US President Bill Clinton, once the most powerful man in the world, had to settle for a welcome that wasn't quite in the same league of effusive warmth as the one accorded to Mrs Foster, her predecessor Peter Robinson and DUP MLA Simon Hamilton. "It wasn't exactly the Rubicon, but there were times in the past that crossing the Foyle was a bridge too far for hardline unionists," said one observer. The DUP trio had received assurances that there would be no paramilitary trappings for Mr McGuinness, and Mrs Foster sat close to his tricolour-draped coffin and listened to hymns and parts of addresses in Irish before stretching out her hand to greet Sinn Fein's northern leader Michelle O'Neill. The under-fire ex-First Minister later happily mingled with nationalists and republicans outside the church, even taking time to pose for selfies after a funeral the like of which has rarely been witnessed in Derry - or anywhere else in Northern Ireland. Mrs Foster's attendance at the Requiem Mass may not have ensured that the ongoing talks to save the Stormont Executive will succeed, but the mood music will undoubtedly have been changed as negotiators get round the table again later today. Even in death, Mr McGuinness managed the impossible of bolstering the faltering political process he'd built by yesterday bringing together his political foes, Irish President Michael D Higgins, Taoiseach Enda Kenny, PSNI Chief Constable George Hamilton and former IRA fighters under the same roof, sometimes just feet apart. The VIPs made it the closest thing the Bogside had ever seen to a State funeral for a man who has been hailed as a statesman in recent days by a retired senior civil servant. In the Waterside life went on as normal, but a number of Protestant clergymen were at Mr McGuinness's funeral, including his friend the Rev David Latimer from First Derry Presbyterian Church, who told mourners that the Sinn Fein man "has bequeathed to us a better place to live". Mr Latimer responded to applause by saying thank you in Irish: "Go raibh maith agat." A number of relatives of IRA victims have denounced praise for Mr McGuinness, saying he never apologised for his actions as an IRA commander linked by the security forces to dozens of murders. And in his homily yesterday, Father Michael Canny addressed their concerns. He said he realised from conversations with Mr McGuinness down the years that he knew only too well how many people struggled with his IRA past. He added: "Republicans were not blameless and many people right across the community find it difficult to forgive and impossible to forget." But he said the former Deputy First Minister had spent years trying to move his community to peace, and added that the monument to his efforts was all around the congregation.... *Courtesy Belfast Telegraph*



NOTICES

Clocks go forward this weekend. Don't forget!

Money Matters

Sunday 19 March 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p260
2nd Collection: p290
Crosscare: p110
Family Offering: p437



Remembered at Mass

Recently Deceased: Nigel Monaghan Funeral Mass Monday 11.00am

Sat 6pm: Mona Keogh, Ivy & John Hennessy, Marie Sarsfield (Birth Rem), James & Sheila Sarsfield, Michael & Yvonne Sarsfield, Darren Mc Donagh

Sun 11.30: Marie Dolan Months Mind, Harriet Donnelly 1st Ann, John & Michael Long, James Donnelly, Kathleen & Samuel Hoey



Earth Hour

Earth Hour will be marked around the world on Saturday 25 March. In Ireland, it will be observed from 8.30pm - 9.30pm. Earth Hour is all about inspiring people to take better care of the planet and in practical terms it means making the effort to turn off lights/power for one hour to conserve energy and to promote action on climate justice! It is celebrated annually in 178 countries. The idea of Earth Hour very much fits in with the themes of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical letter on Care for Our Common Home.



Messiah Musical

Now and Then Production Company presents Messiah a new musical by Gavin Byrne in St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght from April 4th -7th at 8.00pm. (Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets cost p7/12 available at the door or on



Prisoner of Conscience



Narges Mohammadi is a prisoner of conscience serving a 16 year sentence. She is critically ill. Narges suffers from a pulmonary embolism. If left untreated this could lead to sudden death. Narges also suffers from seizures and partial paralysis. She is not receiving the specialised medical care that she needs.

Narges is currently locked behind the grim walls of Evin Prison in Iran. Time is not on her side. Narges' ordeal is made particularly heartbreaking because she has also been cruelly separated from her young children, Ali and Kiana. Not only has she missed the last two years of their lives, but when her jailers wish to torment her, they forbid her from even talking to them on the phone. You may wonder what Narges Mohammadi could possibly have done to deserve such cruel, heartless treatment? Simply this: she spoke out for gender equality in her country.

If you would like to help her contact Amnesty International. www.amnesty.ie



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It's not how a person's life begins that matters, but how it ends". *Ian Paisley Jnr., talking about Martin McGuinness.*



SUNDAY LITURGY 4th SUNDAY LENT

First Reading 1Samuel 16:1. 6-7, 10-13

The lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him', but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall

want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. R/
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. R/
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R?

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ !
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ !

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man. and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one'. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath'. Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind'. Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ