



**SPRING!**

The long dark days of waiting, a miracle has happened. Yet again, perseverance has been rewarded; what has been hidden is now visible; our earlier attention to the invisible is being paid back with colourful surprises, one day after the other. It's brighter and lighter in the garden these days, with brighter mornings, longer evenings, cherry blossoms, birds in the trees, life budding into being – and it's lighter too in our hearts.

For the gardener, practical work begins in earnest now. Shovels, rakes and hoes are taken out of storage. The soil needs to be broken, aired and turned, tested for texture and food content. Plants that appear partly out of the ground need to be firmed back into place, while seedlings need to be planted outdoors in the places where they are to bloom.

March and April bring the season of Easter, with its time of waiting between Calvary and resurrection, between death and new life. The gift to pray for at this time of year is hope. We hope – we know – that the dawn of the year will come, with brighter days, fresh growth and colour in the garden. And yet hope is beyond what we imagine, because although spring always comes, it is always different.

*Sister Stanislaus Kennedy*

**FAMILY MASS** - As next Sunday, 28th, is the last Sunday of April, we will have our monthly Family Mass at 10.30am. All are most welcome!

**The Church-24 Survey**

Since 2020 the Catholic Church has conducted two surveys on churchgoing during Covid-19. The data showed how people reacted to issues such as the closure of the Church buildings, online worship and the stress of ministering with the new changes. Results were reported over many months in journals and religious press. Now in 2024 we seek to update our understanding on the same topics. As with previous surveys, *Church-24* invites you to reflect on the big questions and relate your experiences of church life since the pandemic. It should take 15-20 minutes. This survey is for all people, you don't have to be a regular churchgoer to take part.

Further details on the Church-24 survey can be found at <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/the-church-24-survey/>. Please pass on the link to others. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Lay Ministry**

Next weekend April 27/28 is dedicated to Lay Ministry. Please consider if you might have an hour or two spare to help out. All necessary training will be provided. The second collection (normally for Share) will be to support the building up of new forms of lay ministry. Each of us who are baptised, both women and men, have our own unique role to play in making the kingdom of God present here on earth.

**Auxiliary Bishop**

The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Paul Dempsey as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Dublin. We pray that God grants him wisdom to guide him and strength to support him as he takes on this new role.

**Saints in the Church's Calendar**

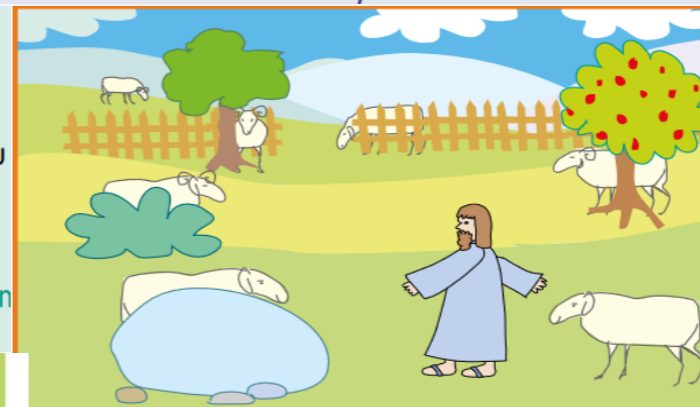
**St. Mark, Evangelist** -Thurs 25th, His Gospel gives the teaching and memoirs of St. Peter. He joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey.

**Children's Corner: In the Gospel Today**

Jesus says he is like a good shepherd who knows and loves each one of his sheep. He will do anything to care for them and keep them safe. Jesus loves each one of us in the same way.

Some of the good shepherd's sheep are playing Hide and Seek. Can you find them?

Draw a line from Jesus to the hidden sheep.



Thank you, Jesus, for looking after me. I know you are always with me. Help me to trust you. Amen.

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD!**

**Confirmation Ceremonies**



The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Parish Schools continues. On Thursday 25th April we have the boys and girls from Saint Francis Xavier at 11.00am and 2.00pm. We welcome the children and their parents/guardians and wider family circle to these wonderful occasions.

**First Holy Communion Masses**



Our final mass together before First Holy Communion will be celebrated on 27th April (6pm vigil mass) and Sunday 28th April (10.30am). Communion candidates from all of our parish schools; Scoil Bhríde Cailíní, Scoil Bhríde Buachailí, Saint Francis Xavier, Scoil Oilibhéir and Pelletstown Educate Together. Please keep them in your prayers.



**Teen Hope** – Our meeting on Friday 19th April went very well. Please keep this wonderful initiative in your prayers. Thank you to the Teen Hope Team: Mairín Murphy, Tom Hannigan, Aine Jordan and Anna Turcanova who give of their time, not only on the night, but also in all their preparation.

We pray for our recently deceased; *David Cashin Gerry Counihan Pat O'Donnell Catherine Cantwell* Always loved, never forgotten



**Annual Heritage Parish Pilgrimage.**

This will take place on **Saturday 22nd June** to Faughart and surrounding areas. It is a full day trip to include morning coffee and dinner on the return. We will update you when we have finalised the details.

A **healing mass** will be held in St Patrick's Church Corduff on Friday 26th April at 7.30pm. The celebrant is a well known priest Fr. Brendan Walsh S.A.C. There will be adoration from 7pm and refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre. All are welcome!

**Adult Discussion Group**

Our Adult Discussion Group will meet on **Wednesday 24th April @7pm**

Topic for discussion this week: *How do we become fully-fledged members of the church (officially)?* Come along to enjoy just one session, or come for all the sessions.



**Aware** offer a free weekly group for people in the community who may be struggling with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and mood related conditions in Dublin. Details are on [Aware.ie](http://Aware.ie). The group meets every Tuesday at 7pm in the Axis Theatre, Ballymun.

**Pilgrimage to Knock** Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead the annual pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday 27th April. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879. For information please contact; [knockpilgrimage@dublindioocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindioocese.ie)



Please return your Trocaire donations so they can be put to good use. Online at [trocaire.org](http://trocaire.org) or you can hand them into the parish office or to the sacristy. Thank You!

**Mass intentions for the week**

Saturday	Sanela Angel (intention)			
Sunday	Patricia Lonergan (MM)	Angela Connell	Eillie Peake	David Panergo (birthday remembrance)
	Mary & Czes Kubiak	Luisa Mauro	Herbie Hughes	
Tuesday	Ann Fitzgerald	<b>Thursday</b>	Thomas & Sarah O'Dwyer	

Let nothing disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices. **Teresa of Ávila**



*Sister Stan*