



5th Sunday of the Year 6th February 2022

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MASS TIMES AT CLONARD

Public Mass & Masses via Webcam

Sunday (Vigil Sat- 7.30pm), 7.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am, and 12.30pm.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri.
7.00am, 9.30am and 6.15pm.
Thursday (Novena) 7.00am, 9.30am, 6.15pm and 8.00pm.
Saturday 7.00am, 9.30am & 12.00 Noon.



We thank you for last week's Collection which came to £2,258.
Also for your kind donations, online and by post.
The Bishop's collection will be included today.

Christmas Crib Appeal

Last Sunday a cheque for £5,850.00 was presented to Richard Moore, the founder of Children in Crossfire. He - and we - are deeply grateful for your generosity to this year's Christmas Crib Appeal.



The 4 Corners Festival 2022 - Our 10th Anniversary celebration concludes this Sunday, 6th February with the **Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby** speaking in St Peter's Cathedral in person at 7.00pm. The night will be rounded off with singer Dana Masters sending her jazz-soul voice soaring into the rafters of the cathedral. This concluding service will also be available online. Then at 10.00pm, Jim Deeds will lead the final online Night Prayer to conclude the festival. Go to 4cornersfestival.com to book your place.
Prayer Walk Monday, 7th Feb. meeting at 7.30pm at St Michael's Church of Ireland, Craven St, Shankill Rd. Finishes around 9.00pm. All welcome!



GOD'S WORD IN FEBRUARY 2022

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Today's Readings

Called and chosen

Is 6:1-8; Ps 137; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11

The scene in today's Gospel takes place on the shores of the Lake of Gennesaret. This is one of three or four names for the large lake in Galilee, some 500 feet below sea level. It was an important part of the economic life of Galilee. It supported a thriving fishing industry from the little harbours around its edge. It figures much in the story of Jesus. His first followers included people who made their living from it, like his fishermen disciples and Mary Magdalene, from Magdala, one of the small lakeside towns.

The first part of the Gospel describes how Jesus got into a boat the better to be seen by the crowd and also perhaps to use the natural amplification of the water to carry his voice. The second and most important part is the story of the call of the first disciples. The opening of this part of the story might suggest that Jesus is about to reward Simon for the loan of his boat as a pulpit. As an experienced fisherman, Simon probably smiled at what he thought was a well-meaning gesture from a man with little fishing experience. The fishermen of the lake preferred to fish during the dark. The previous night had brought in nothing, as he tells the preacher. Not wishing to offend his good intentions, Peter declares himself willing to lower the nets. To his surprise, the nets begin to bulge with so many fish that they are close to breaking point. They signal to their partners in the other boat to come and help them save the precious catch. So wondrous is the catch that even the two boats cannot hold it without running the risk of sinking. Simon's response is to recognise that there is something holy about this teacher. He falls to his knees and confesses that he is 'a sinful man.' So far, we have no experience of how he could be a sinful man. Later events, such as his denial on the eve of Jesus' passion that he knows him, will undoubtedly confirm Simon to be a weak man. Jesus responds, 'Do not be afraid.' This isn't intended simply to restore Simon's self-confidence. There are echoes here of the stories of the call of Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament. As each is called, he recognises how unfit he is for the task but is reassured by a sign from God. In Simon's case, the sign came first, but it is only now he is made aware of what it means when Jesus tells him that he is to become a catcher, not of fish, but of human beings.

Peter and his companions James and John (and probably Andrew, Simon's brother) become the first disciples, leaving 'everything' to follow him.



Courtesy of REALITY magazine

St. Agnes' Parish Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes Thursday 3rd to Friday 11th February.

Mass times: Monday to Friday: 10.00am and 7.00pm Saturday: 1pm and 6.30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 9.30am and 12.30pm. Preacher Fr Laurence Gallagher C.Ss.R.

All Novena sessions available through the Parish webcam.

Feast Days this week:

Tuesday 8th: St Josephine Bakhita

Thursday 10th: St Scholastica

Friday 11th: Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the Sick