



4th Sunday of Lent

19th March 2023



CLONARD MONASTERY
 1 CLONARD GARDENS
 BELFAST BT13 2RL
 Tel: 02890445950

 reception@clonard.com
 [@clonardmbelfast](https://twitter.com/clonardmbelfast)
 [ClonardMonastery](https://www.facebook.com/ClonardMonastery)
 www.clonard.com

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 £3,164.
 Also for your kind donations, online and by post.
 The collection for Needy Parishes will be included today.

ReLENTless Prayer - continues throughout the weekdays of Lent from **10am - 4pm**. There are **prayer spaces** across West and North Belfast hosted by various Churches. The purpose of ReLEntless is to provide quiet spaces to take a break from the busyness of life and pray for our communities and our world. See the schedule of host Churches in the vestibule of the Church. In Clonard we host one more day on Tuesday 28 March. Everyone is welcome at any of the host Churches!



"A Farther Shore" is a one-person play written by Rev David Campton (Methodist). Clonard has joined with Saint John's Parish, Fitzroy Presbyterian and Garnerville Presbyterian in sponsoring two performances at the Sanctuary Theatre, 1a Castlereagh Street on Sunday 26th March. The performances are at 3.30 PM and 7.00 PM. The play is a retelling of Biblical stories through the eyes of Saint Peter and lasts about an hour. Admission is free, but you must register in advance. Clonard has 15 tickets for each performance. If you would like to register, please contact Clonard Reception (028 90445950) email reds@clonard.com

Open the eyes of my soul, Lord

It's hard to know why Jesus went through the ritual of the spittle, the mud, and the water, in order to heal the man. He healed other blind people with a touch, or simply a word. It might well have been a test of faith. He sent the ten lepers on their way, and they were healed as they journeyed along. He sent the centurion home and, before he reached home he got word that his servant was healed. I often think that this is how Jesus heals many of us. We ask for his healing, and nothing seems to happen immediately. Maybe, after asking for his healing, we should go on our way, and expect to notice the healing taking place gradually as time goes by.

As the story unfolds, we notice that the man's eyes were really opened, and that includes the eyes of his soul. Clearly Jesus was intent on healing the total person, or not at all. We don't imagine him healing someone, and then having that person going away still filled with resentment against another. Such a person was not really healed at all. The man in today's gospel was totally healed, and he ended up on his knees, worshipping Jesus.

A practical and simple prayer is "Lord, that I may see." It is a short prayer, but when it comes from the depths of my heart, it is a powerful prayer. Remember that other blind man named Bartimeus? He was told that Jesus was passing by, and he was determined to get his attention. Those around him tried to silence him, but he shouted all the louder. And he also was cured. To another man Jesus asked the pointed question, "Do you want to be healed?"

The greatest good we can do for others is not by giving them money, though that can also be needed at times, but in revealing their own riches to them. It is good to affirm others and make them feel both loved and worthwhile. Many people have grown up with a poor self-image, and they just cannot see the good in themselves. This is another form of blindness, and it is a blindness in others that any one of us can heal. The most certain proof that the Spirit of God lives in you is your willingness and ability to affirm and bring a blessing to other people.

Getting the Past out of the Present Workshop Day: on Saturday 29th April at 120 Cliftonville Road Belfast 10am - 4pm Booking essential. Many of us can struggle with forgiveness, letting go of the past so that we can best live out our lives. We invite you to join us for a day of creative prayer and reflection to explore how we can bring healing to our lives through the practice of forgiveness. The day will be led by Fr Jim Cogley, Parish Priest and Psychotherapist from the Diocese of Ferns and will be supported by Fr Peter Carlin PP St Matthew's. Spaces are limited to 30 participants. Please e-mail livngchurch@downandconnor.org or call 028 90690920

Feast Days this week:

Monday 20th: St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
 Saturday 25th: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity