



Passion Sunday

24th March 2024



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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 £3,540.
Also for your kind donations, online and by post.
The collection for Needy Parishes will be included today.

Good Friday Falls/Shankill Annual Prayer Walk - takes place on the **29th March** beginning at **4.45pm** in front of **Clonard Church**, stopping midway at Shankill Methodist for a brief prayer led by Rev Alan Conly, and returning to Clonard by 6.00pm. All are welcome as we commit ourselves once again to the ministry of reconciliation, in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth, who gave his life for everyone on this day.



The Chrism Mass will be celebrated in St Peter's Cathedral on Spy Wednesday, 27th March at 12.00 noon;

Please remember to return your Trócaire boxes to Reception as soon as possible.



The Word of God this Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7 — Describes someone putting up with a lot of suffering. Our tradition teaches us that these lines apply to Jesus.

Philippians 2:6-11 — An ancient hymn about Christ, which tells us that Jesus achieved glory through suffering.

Mark 14:1 to 15:47 — Mark's account of the passion is in a lively style which relishes detail and doesn't avoid what might appear offensive. His message is that Jesus freely gives up control.

The Passion

In the Liturgy of the Word today, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in full, this year from the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these same events once more on Good Friday, when the passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of John will be proclaimed. Why does the Church give so central a place in its liturgy to the passion and death of Jesus on the Cross? Why do we continue to remember in all their shameful and gory details the humiliation of the one who came on earth only to bring healing, forgiveness and peace? It was surely not because this was the price demanded by the Father for our sins. Only a sadist would demand such a price, and God, far from being a sadist, is Love itself. Nor does Jesus deliberately court his own destruction. He did not seek the Cross, though he did embrace it freely as he discerned that the inevitable outcome of his mission of love was to be handed over to his enemies and put to death.

Jesus' passion and agonizing death by crucifixion was not a consequence of the Father's need to be placated nor the result of a martyr complex on the part of Jesus himself. It was, as Redemptorist Fr Denis McBride states '*the final solution thought up by a world opposed to Jesus' way*'. Jesus' suffering and death shows us with startling clarity what happens to self-forgetful love in a world ruled by the demons of hatred and violence. Jesus could have avoided the Cross but only by turning aside from his mission of proclaiming and inaugurating the God's reign of justice, peace and love. And this he could not and would not do. To reveal the full extent of God's love for us, he had to endure suffering and death. The events we recall today represent the final phase and climax of Jesus' life-giving mission of love.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Spy Wednesday	10.30am to 12.30pm and 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Holy Thursday	10.30am to 12.30pm and 3.00pm to 5.00pm
Good Friday	10:00am to 12.30pm and 4.30pm to 6.00pm
Holy Saturday	10:30am to 12.30pm and 3.00pm to 6.00pm



The Easter and Holy Week schedule is available at the back of the Church and at Reception.



RECEPTION CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY.