# 5th Sunday of Easter

# 28th April 2024

**CLONARD MONASTERY**

**1 CLONARD GARDENS**

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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 £3,181.
Also for your kind donations, online and by post.

**The Belfast City Marathon** will take place next Sunday, 5th May.
**No change to Mass times. Traffic will be restricted on the**
**Andersonstown/Falls Road from 9.30am.**

**Scripture Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:**
*Acts 9:26-31* — Saul, a former persecutor of Christians, preaches at Jerusalem for the first time after his conversion.
*I John 3:18-24* — Living God's way involves not just words, but genuine love…
*John 15:1-8* — Without a life-giving connection to Christ, our faith will wither and fade. Christ invigorates us.

**Feast Days this week:**
Monday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

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*I am the Vine*
Culturally and economically the cultivation of vines was as important in Israel as the cultivation of potatoes was (and still is) in Ireland. Several passages in the Hebrew Scriptures refer to the people of Israel as a vine, planted and cared for by God and destined to produce wholesome fruit.
In today's gospel Jesus applies the image of the vine to himself and his relationship with his disciples. Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Without the nourishment, moisture and support offered by the vine, the branches wither and die. This means that our lives must be rooted in Christ – a truth we may find hard to accept at a time when self-reliance, independence, and self-assertion are promoted as the supreme values. Nowadays, we are encouraged to create our own identities. We are told that we are what we make of ourselves. It is, of course, true that we can, and must, shape and direct our lives. But the image of Christ, the vine, reminds us that we are loved, sustained, redeemed, and sanctified through the person of Christ.
The image of the vine also illustrates that Christ needs us. We are the branches, and it is the branches that bear the grapes. In the words of St Teresa of Avila: '*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours; yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands, with which he is to bless us now.*' Yes, Christ depends on us to be fruitful – to produce the fruits of love in the world for which he laid down his life. However, being fruitful must not be equated with being successful, or at least what is often seen as success in our materialistic world. Christ is not asking us to be successful or famous, but to be fruitful. This means letting the love we constantly receive from him flow through us, and out to others for their benefit, and this is something that may often go unheralded and unrewarded.

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**Cemetery Sundays 2024**   Prayers and the Blessing of Graves will take place on the following dates for the respective Cemetery Sundays.
Milltown:         Sunday 12th of May at 3pm
City:               Sunday 19th of May at 3pm
Hannahstown:    Sunday 26th of May at 3pm

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**Climate Redemption: Hope for the World**
A Discussion with Dom Christopher Jamison OSB
*Exploring a language more hopeful than the language of doom which hangs over many areas of contemporary life.*
**Belfast Jesuit Centre Sunday 5th May 3 – 5.45pm**
Followed by Mass at St Patrick's
Book via **www.belfastjesuitcentre.org**

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The loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce is devastating. Beginning Experience is offering a programme of bereavement support in St Bride's Hall, Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast on three Saturdays (27th April, 25th May and 29th June 2024) Booking essential. To find out more, contact Pauline 07519289185 or Marie 07896119669 or email belfastbe@yahoo.com