



# The Ascension of the Lord

## 12th May 2024

CLONARD MONASTERY

1 CLONARD GARDENS

BELFAST BT13 2RL

Tel: 02890445950



reception@clonard.com



@clonardmbelfast



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 £1,477 for Clonard, £490 for the Bishop's collection. Also for your kind donations, online and by post.

### **Scripture Readings for the Ascension of the Lord**

**Acts 1:1-11** — This gives Luke's description of the event we celebrate today, taken from the very start of the book of Acts.

**Ephesians 4:1-13** — Paul appeals to Christians to live in peace and unity, and lists some of the gifts the ascended Lord has passed on.

**Mark 16:15-20** — These last verses of Mark's Gospel show how Jesus remains with us.

**Can you help?** It is the time of the year when our attention turns to the annual Novena which this year takes place from

**June 19 – 27.** The celebration of the Novena requires the help of many people. If you are interested in offering your help during these days, please pick up a form from Reception, download from the website or speak to one of the Redemptorist Community.



### **'Proclaim the Good News to all creation'**

Today's gospel tells us that the final command of Jesus to the eleven apostles before he returns to his Father, is to *'go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation.* Mark underlines the universality of this commission. Jesus wants the gospel to be proclaimed to everyone, everywhere. During his earthly life, his proclamation of the Kingdom of God was limited primarily to the Jews. Now the boundaries of his mission are expanded to include all humanity and extend to all creation. All creatures great and small are embraced by the gospel of God's love.

Mark also reminds us that Good News does not compel acceptance. Those who hear it have the choice either to believe or not to believe. And those who believe shall be confirmed in their faith by means of signs. In the name of Jesus, *'they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues.....; they will lay hands on the sick who will recover (Mk 16: 17-18).* In other words, believers share in the power of their risen and glorified Lord. The gospel reading ends with the assurance that, as the apostles embarked on their missionary mandate, *'preaching everywhere',* the Lord was *'working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it'.* Jesus' ascent to heaven does not mean that he is totally absent from our world. On the contrary, he is now present in a new way, working, in and through his Spirit, with his disciples to heal and transform our broken world, imbuing it with the fragrance of heaven.

Like the eleven apostles, all of us, by virtue of our baptism, are called and empowered to go out and proclaim, in word in deed, the Good News to all creation. The task may seem beyond our strength as the forces that resist us are truly daunting. But we shall not be overwhelmed for we are never alone. Jesus continues to work with us through his Spirit, drawing us and all creation to its final destiny in him.

**Prayer for Exams:** If you wish to pray for a student during this exam time, you can enter your prayer in a special book of intentions at St Joseph's Altar, where your intention will be remembered in a special way at daily Prayer here in Clonard.



### Clonard Peace Ministry

**Prayer & Blessing Walk** - Monday 13 May from 7.30pm - 8.30pm (tea/coffee after walk). This month's inter-church walk will be hosted by St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast BT12 4BU. All welcome!

**Sharing Wisdom** - an interfaith exploration through readings on the topic of nonviolence. Wednesday 15 May from 4.30-5.30pm in Forthspring, 373 Springfield Rd, Belfast BT12 7DG. All welcome!

**Unity Pilgrims** - joining Fitzroy Presbyterian Church on Pentecost Sunday 19 May for their 11.00am Morning Service. Pilgrims will meet in Clonard (at reception) at 10.30am. Everyone welcome!

**Rubbish? Far From It!** - A guided tour of the Bryson Recycling plant at Mallusk on Tuesday 28 May 10.30am - 12 Noon. For further details and/or to book a place contact Ed Petersen in Clonard on Tel. 02890 445950 or by email [ejpclonard@icloud.com](mailto:ejpclonard@icloud.com).

**Cemetery Sundays 2024** Prayers and the Blessing of Graves will take place on the following dates for the respective Cemetery Sundays.

Milltown: Today, Sunday 12th of May at 3pm

City: Sunday 19th of May at 3pm

Hannahstown: Sunday 26th of May at 3pm