



DONNYBROOK PARISH
CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
www.donnybrookparish.ie

Church Notices

Saturday 13th / Sunday 14th February 2016

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST COLLECTION is for the support of priests.

ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR ACCORD (the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family) replaces SHARE this weekend. *We welcome Barbara Duff to speak after the notices at each Mass.*

DONNYBROOK FAIR – SENIOR CITIZEN'S VALENTINE PARTY Donnybrook Fair Committee invites you to their Senior Citizen's Valentine Party at the Beech Hill Court Community Room this Sunday (14th February) 3:00pm – 8:00pm.

PATRICIAN MEETING will be held this Monday (15th Feb) in the Parish Centre at 8pm and the discussion will be 'How do we pass on the Faith to our children?' with Rev. Frank Sammon S.J. in attendance. All welcome!

DONNYBROOK ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION An illustrated talk by Dr Beatrice Doran on 'Donnybrook Shops in bygone days' in the Parish Centre on Tuesday 16th February at 2:30pm. *All welcome!*

ANNUAL MASS in memory of the Venerable Servant of God, Father John Sullivan SJ Annual Mass will be celebrated in the Jesuit Church, St Francis Xavier's, Gardiner Street on *Saturday 20th February at 11:00am*. Principal Celebrant - Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. All welcome!

TRÓCAIRE BOXES FOR LENT available at church entrances this weekend. *Please take one home!*

PARISH SHOP

New stock now in the Shop for Year of Mercy, Lent and more! Please stop by!

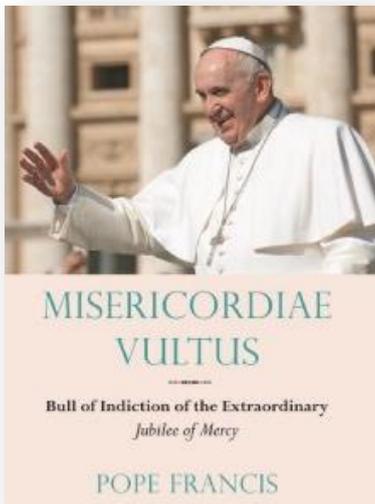
FEAST THIS WEEK

- St Fintan, abbot (*Wed 17th*)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: *Recently Deceased:* Colette Barry and Rachel Daly RIP

- 6:00pm Vigil: Eddie Doyle (*Anniversary*)
- 9:00am: Brendan and Eva Hackett (*Anniversaries*)
- 10:30am: Molly Ward (*Anniversary*)
- 12:00pm: Catherine Daly (*Anniversary*)
- 5:30pm: Special Intention

Also: Robert Stanton, Mary O'Leary and Mary Patricia Tuohy (*Anniversaries*).



9. In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. Lk 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because

mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon.

From another parable, we cull an important teaching for our Christian lives. In reply to Peter's question about how many times it is necessary to forgive, Jesus says: 'I do not say seven times, but seventy times seven times' (Mt 18:22). He then goes on to tell the parable of the 'ruthless servant', who, called by his master to return a huge amount, begs him on his knees for mercy. His master cancels his debt. But he then meets a fellow servant who owes him a few cents and who in turn begs on his knees for mercy, but the first servant refuses his request and throws him into jail. When the master hears of the matter, he becomes infuriated and, summoning the first servant back to him, says, 'Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' (Mt 18:33). Jesus concludes, 'So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart' (Mt 18:35).

This parable contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves.