

# Mass Times & Masses for the dead as follows:

Sat 21st July	8.00pm	Paddy Joe Farrell, Clonmee. (1st Anniv).
Sun 22nd July	10.30am	Mass for the people of the parish.
Mon 23rd July	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Tues 24th July	8.00pm	Special Intention.
Wed 25th July	No Mass.	Adoration as usual.
Thurs 26th July	9.30am	Special Intention.
Fri 27th July	8.00pm	Lena Kiduff & D.F.M. Derrygowna.
Sat 28th July	8.00pm	Tommy O'Shea, Forthill. (6th Anniv).
Sun 29th July	10.30am	Johnny Murray, Claris.

**Eucharistic Adoration** continues on Wednesday 3pm-9pm and Friday 8.30pm-9pm

<b>Eucharistic Roster:</b>	8.00pm Sat 28th July	Liz Hanley & Caroline Murtagh.
	10.30am Sun 29th July	Dermot Healy & Anne Kenny.
<b>Readers' Roster:</b>	8.00pm Sat 28th July	Nani Kenny.
	10.30am Sun 29th July	Kate Bohan.

**A Bus to Phoenix Park for the Pope's visit** will be organised if there are enough people willing to travel. Please put your name on the list in the children's room at the back of the Church.  
**Volunteers for Newtowncashel Forage Club:** Please contact Jim - 086 9672920 or email James.maher@forage.ie

**Ballymahon Day Care Centre** The management and clients wish to thank everyone including local businesses who generously supported them in their latest fundraiser - the ladies mini marathon. All of the funds raised from this event largely contribute towards the continuous upkeep and running of the centre. Numbers have increased immensely due to extra funds being made available. Our open day is on Wednesday 25th July from 11am to 3pm. Any queries please contact Breda Greaves on 09064 38445. New members always welcome.  
**The Irish Wheelchair Association** Church Gate Collection will take place on Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th July. With your support IWA can continue to maintain vital services to people with disabilities in Co. Longford.

**Crough Patrick Men's Climb of Reparation & Men's Conference:** Meeting for recitation of the Rosary in the car park of Crough Patrick @ 10.30am on Saturday August 11th. Commencement of climb @ 11.00am. Mass on summit @ approx 1.30pm. After the climb, dinner and men's talk on Saturday evening. Sunday men's breakfast with talk, finishing after Sunday morning Mass. "Special men's climb deal" Dinner, B&B & conference € 79 per person sharing. Castlecourt Hotel, Westport. Speakers John Pridmore, Robert Cassidy & Paul O'Shea. Booking essential with Human Life International Ireland, Tel: 0949375993.

**StepbyStep Dublin to Knock walk 7th-15th August** Please walk with us. Help raise support to feed the next child. For more information please contact any of the following Fr. Eamonn Kelly 087 90777985 / email eamonnkellys@eircom.net or Gerard Wade 085 8037479 / email gerardwade56@gmail.com or John Shortt 087 2569337 / email jshortt@yahoo.com.

**Radio Maria Ireland** How to listen in: download the app "Radio Maria Ireland" - listen live on www.radiomaria.ie - landline Radio feed on 01-4373277.

## **Reflection: St. Francis is alive and well and living in the South Bronx**

The year was 1977. Sportscaster Howard Cosell, viewing the fires that raged just outside the walls of Yankee Stadium during Game 2 of the World Series, uttered the infamous words, "There it is, ladies and gentlemen, the Bronx is burning." Throughout the 1970s the South Bronx became a symbol of everything that was wrong with society, and itself turned into a living hell complete with towering flames at night and clouds of jet black smoke by day that could be seen clearly from across the Hudson River. Rampant homelessness, street gangs, plummeting property values and a wide-scale drug endemic were plunging the borough into a pit of despair and hopelessness that seemed insurmountable as New York City itself descended into near bankruptcy.

The NYPD's famous 41st Precinct, nicknamed "Fort Apache," was one of the last slivers of defence against complete collapse, as the South Bronx claimed the ominous title of the murder and robbery capital of America. The FDNY, overwhelmed with fire calls, heroically fought the fires they could, and at times wouldn't even return to their stations between shifts.

By the early 1980s, approximately 45 percent of the properties were either burnt to the ground or abandoned and the conditions were so abysmal that there was only one way left to go. Up.

In early 1987, a priest named Fr. Benedict Groeschel, of the newly founded Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, sat in a car with a woman named Nancy Black on 156th Street near the FDNY's Ladder 55 Station, in front of what was then St. Adelbert's Church. The two prayed that the group of eight founding members of the religious order would be able to set up shop to begin their ministry in the crumbling building. Their prayer and the prayers of countless others were heard and answered, and by late 1987 the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal had themselves a new home, in what is now the St. Crispin Friary.

They opened their doors and their hearts to the local community serving the homeless, counselling drug addicts, distributing food and teaching the children who found their way to their door [1].

A few years later the friars acquired a derelict building next door where you could go inside and "look right up and see the sky," because the floors and roof were missing. In 1994, after lengthy repairs and renovation, the building opened its doors as the St. Anthony Shelter for Renewal, able to house 30 men.

And on Saturday June 16, 2018, the shelter celebrated its 25th anniversary of service, helping countless men rebuild their lives after struggling with homelessness and addiction.

At a time when the world recoiled in horror at what was happening to the northern-most borough of a city in crisis, the Franciscan Friars of Renewal, with their unbridled enthusiasm and stalwart reliance on the grace of God, brought their brand of renewal to the South Bronx and became a part of what turned the South Bronx around.

The friars' daily life is as one would expect of a religious community. They rise for Morning Prayer at 6:00, followed by a period of silent prayer before Holy Mass at 7:30. Then there is breakfast. Each working day draws to a close with a communal Holy Hour, around 5:00, followed by Evening Prayer, and then supper.

This is no pious sentiment, but the running of a regular and well-attended soup kitchen. The smiling friars welcome all those who turn up. The soup kitchen's only rule is announced at the start: all present are family.

As one journalist commented: "What the guests do not witness, but which I did, is that each evening one of the friars goes to the nearby shops where he begs food for the next day's soup kitchen. This is a regular nightly occurrence. Each evening, along a busy thoroughfare, a friar can be seen carrying back to the friary whatever he has been given. The next day he turns that food into a meal for the many who would not otherwise eat but for the friars."

This, in some ways, is a perfect illustration of the friars' very public witness alongside their hidden one of prayer. The faces of the shopkeepers spoke volumes that night I accompanied Fr. Jacob as he begged for food. Expressions of mingled bafflement and world-weariness at how these men, these religious, could live as they do. But they do live like this, and, as a result, every week there are three packed soup kitchens. The friars may beg for others, but they themselves live by Providence. When first I entered the friary's kitchen, the range of foodstuffs on display was impressive. I asked where they bought their provisions. They told me they didn't. Instead, they said, they live on what people give them, quickly adding that people were generous. They appeared as unperturbed by this arrangement as I must have seemed incredulous. *Here, in the twenty-first century, there are a group of friars who lived just as their spiritual brothers did many centuries previously.* And now an order of Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal has been established.

**Moral:** The Friars are living the First reading and the Gospel we have just read. We are challenged to do so too in whatever small way we can. This community is engaged in similarly troubled areas of Limerick and Derry since 2007.