

# Parish of Blaris

Sunday 21 May 2023  
The Ascension of the Lord

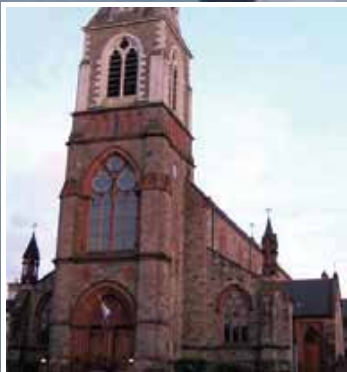
**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH**  
Masses Monday – Friday 10.00am  
Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm  
Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

#### LIVE WEBSTREAMING OF ALL MASSES

Please note many parishes in the Diocese have webcams installed which provide live coverage of various Masses taking place daily throughout the Diocese. These can be accessed by visiting [www.downandconnor.org](http://www.downandconnor.org) Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS

*Jesus said 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations. And know that I am with you always.'*

*Matthew 28:19, 20*



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Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm.  
Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

*Congregation stands*

**Entrance Hymn or  
Entrance Antiphon**

**Acts 1:11**

**All:** Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

## GREETING

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Priest:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen

## GLORIA

**All:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

**Priest:** Let us pray.

*Pause for silent prayer*

**Priest:** Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,

for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Congregation Sits*

### FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles **1:1-11**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at the table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**All:** The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R v.6

**(R) God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth. **(R)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R)**
3. God is king of all earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R)**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians **1:17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what

hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Congregation stands*

**ACCLAMATION** **Mt 28:19-20**

**All: Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Go, make disciples of all the nations;  
 I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.  
 Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.  
**All: And with your spirit.**  
**Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew **28:16-20**  
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Congregation sits*

## HOMILY

*Congregation stands*

## THE CREED

**All: I believe in one God,  
 the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth,  
 of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the Only Begotten Son of God,  
 born of the Father before all ages.  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, consubstantial with the  
 Father; through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,**

*(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin  
 Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
 he suffered death and was buried,  
 and rose again on the third day  
 in accordance with the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory  
 to judge the living and the dead  
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
 life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
 glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic  
 Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
 of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of  
 the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Congregation sits*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

*The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body  
 and blood are brought to the altar.*

*The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:*

**Priest:** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
 for through your goodness we have received  
 the bread we offer you:  
 fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
 it will become for us the bread of life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

*The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the  
 chalice, saying quietly:*

**Priest:** By the mystery of this water and wine  
 may we come to share in the divinity of Christ  
 who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*The celebrant then raises the chalice above the  
 altar and says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
 for through your goodness we have received  
 the wine we offer you:  
 fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
 it will become our spiritual drink.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

*Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:*

**Priest:** With humble spirit and contrite heart  
 may we be accepted by you, O Lord,  
 and may our sacrifice in your sight this day  
 be pleasing to you, Lord God.

*Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:*

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity  
 and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and  
 yours may be acceptable to God,  
 the almighty Father.

**All:** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**Priest:** We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen**

*Congregation stands*

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** **It is right and just.**

### PREFACE (I Ascension)

**Priest:** It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended (today) to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder.

Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

### ACCLAMATION

**All:** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

**Priest:** The mystery of faith.

**All:** **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**Priest:** Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with Francis our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

## THE COMMUNION RITE

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All:** **For the kingdom, the power and the glory  
are yours now and for ever.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**All:** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Congregation kneels*

*The celebrant says quietly:*

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,  
but through your loving mercy  
be for me protection in mind and body  
and a healing remedy.

**INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**All:** **Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Priest:** May the Body of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

**Priest:** May the Blood of Christ  
keep me safe for eternal life.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mt 28:20

**All:** **Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

*Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:*

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,  
may we possess in purity of heart,  
that what has been given to us in time  
may be our healing for eternity.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Congregation kneels*

**Priest:** Let us pray.  
Almighty ever-living God,  
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine  
mysteries, grant, we pray,  
that Christian hope may draw us onward  
to where our nature is united with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** May almighty God bless you,  
for on this very day his only Begotten Son  
pierced the heights of heaven  
and unlocked for you the way  
to ascend to where he is.

**All:** **Amen**

**Priest:** May he grant that, as Christ after  
his Resurrection was seen plainly by his disciples,  
so when he comes as Judge he may show himself  
merciful to you for all eternity.

**All:** **Amen**

**Priest:** And may you, who believe he is seated  
with the Father in his majesty,  
know with joy the fulfilment of his promise  
to stay with you until the end of time.

**All:** **Amen**

**Priest:** And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All:** **Amen**

*Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the  
people, says:*

**Priest:** Go in peace.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

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**TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

*O Lord, Jesus Christ, who ascended into Heaven in glory. I adore you and praise you and beg you to ask your Heavenly Father to look down in mercy upon us who still struggle here on earth. Amen.*

**TODAY IS DESIGNATED AS WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY  
MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 57th WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**Speaking with the heart**

“We are all called to seek and to speak the truth and to do so with charity. We Christians in particular are continually urged to keep our tongue from evil (cf. Ps 34:13), because as Scripture teaches us, with the same tongue we can bless the Lord and curse men and women who were made in the likeness of God (cf. Jas 3:9). No evil word should come from our mouths, but rather “only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:29).

**Speaking with the heart in the synodal process**

As I have emphasised, “In the Church, too, there is a great need to listen to and to hear one another. It is the most precious and life-giving gift we can offer each other”. Listening without prejudice, attentively and openly, gives rise to speaking according to God’s style, nurtured by closeness, compassion and tenderness. We have a pressing need in the Church for communication that kindles hearts, that is balm on wounds and that shines light on the journey of our brothers and sisters. I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time, prophetic, that knows how to find new ways and means for the wonderful proclamation it is called to deliver in the third millennium. A communication which puts the relationship with God and one’s neighbour, especially the neediest, at the centre and which knows how to light the fire of faith rather than preserve the ashes of a self-referential identity. A form of communication founded on humility in listening and parrhesia in speaking, which never separates truth from charity”.

**PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE**

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear the mission that Jesus gives his Church - “Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.” And that is still our mission today. Here in Down and Connor, our Pathways to the Future programme has been set up to help us go out, make disciples and share the love of Christ more effectively in the coming years. One initial task is the count of Mass attendance which is happening across the diocese this weekend. On a practical level this helps us to get an accurate snapshot of who is connecting with our local parishes at this time. But it also encourages us to reflect about who isn’t coming and how we might go out and share the Gospel with them. That might seem a daunting task and it will mean doing some things differently in the future. But if we work together as a whole Church - lay people, religious and clergy, guided by the Holy Spirit - God promises that our efforts will be fruitful. Let’s pray for the courage and imagination to go out and make disciples here in Down and Connor.

**PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE PRAYER**

God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change.  
As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety,  
we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.  
We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.  
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.  
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.  
We ask this in your Holy Name. AMEN



**DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE UNIVERSAL SYNOD – KNOCK 31 MAY 2023**

Please join us to celebrate a Day of Prayer to place the Church’s entire Synodal process, especially the work of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops, which will take place in Rome this October, under the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church on Wednesday, 31st May. Venue: Knock Shrine. Times: 11am Prayer Service in the Apparition Chapel: 12pm: Mass in the Basilica of our Lady, Queen of Ireland: 7pm: Rosary followed by Mass in Knock Parish Church.



**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Maura Andrews: Arthur O’Reilly  
**MONTH’S MIND:** Joseph McKeown **1ST ANNIVERSARY:** Anne McMahon  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Anne Loughran: James Donohoe: John McGuigan: Lily, John & James Spence: Marion Totten: Billy Nugent: Ann (Nan) Corken: Roberta O’Neill: Steve Hull: Roberta McCappen: Harry Mulholland: John & Catherine Hughes: Mary Robertson: Dominic Fusco: James Murray: Patrick Taggart: Una McKernan: John Lundy: Brian Garrett: Sarah (Sally) Dornan: John E. Lavery: Brendan Burns

**INDIAN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**

Rosary at 3.00pm followed by Mass in Syro-Malabar Rite this afternoon at 3.30pm in St. Patrick's Church.

**HOLY GHOST MISSIONARIES** will be appealing for support at all Masses in St. Patrick's Church next weekend. No doubt you will respond with your usual generosity.

**PARISH OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Week-ending 5TH May 2023: £1174.80.  
Thank you for your continued support.

**OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY.**

Meeting of Bereavement Ministers in Parochial House on Monday evening at 7.30pm.

**CEMETERY SUNDAY – SUNDAY 4th JUNE 2023**

Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day

Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.

As in previous years Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon in St. Patrick's Church for all our beloved dead who are buried in our **PARISH CEMETERIES** and **BLARIS CEMETERY**.

Blessing of graves in **ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY IMMEDIATELY** after 12 noon Mass.

**HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY:** Prayers for deceased and blessing of graves at 3.00pm.

Receptacles containing Holy Water will be available on Cemetery Sunday at upper and lower cemetery gates. **PLEASE BRING A SMALL BOTTLE WITH YOU AND FILL AS YOU ENTER CEMETERY.**

The graves can then be blessed by all visitors whilst the priests are praying the blessing.

Baskets will be placed in St. Patrick's Church porches and Holy Trinity Cemetery gates on Sunday 5th June for maintenance of all Parish cemeteries

Frs. Dermot & Eamon will privately bless graves of our loved ones who are laid to rest in **ST. COLMAN'S, REILLY'S TRENCH & ST. JOSEPH'S, MAGHERAGALL cemeteries.**

**LORD, YOU ARE WITH US ALWAYS**

Their hopes had been dashed; You had been crucified, then buried.

The women were afraid, and when they found the tomb empty they were more afraid still.

But suddenly You were there with them, and said, "Do not be afraid"  
and their hearts were filled with joy, and their fears dispersed.

Lord, let me seek You without fear, with that trust in You that takes our fears away!

Let me know Your living presence that You are risen and have overcome all things, even death itself!

Help me to turn to you with confidence, to share the joy of the disciples,  
knowing you are with us always, to the very end of time. Amen.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**Wednesday 24 May** – Day of Prayer for the Church in China

**YOGA WITH ASHA**

New gentle yoga classes for beginners, open to everyone.  
Please book in advance with me on 07840931228  
or by email at ashajacob18@hotmail.com

**GRADUATION MASS – QUB CHAPLAINCY**


On **Thursday 1 June at 5.15pm**, the QUB Chaplaincy will host a Graduation Mass for the Class of 2023. Students, their families and friends, as well as staff and alumni are most welcome. This Mass will be the last special celebration before we close our doors and move to temporary accommodation whilst our landmark building on Elmwood Avenue undergoes major redevelopment. If the Chaplaincy holds special memories for you and you would like to experience it as-is for one last time, know that we would love to have you join us. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you plan to come, it would be helpful if you could let us know by emailing catholicchaplaincy@qub.ac.uk



**Pope Francis Tweets:** The Holy Spirit is demanding, because He is a true, faithful friend, who hides nothing and suggests what we need to change and where we need to grow. But when He corrects us, He never instils distrust. Rather, He assures us that we can always succeed with God.

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