

Parish of Blaris

Sunday 28th July 2024
The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

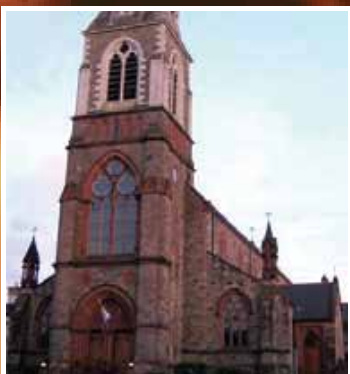
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Masses Monday – Friday 10.00am
Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm
Sunday: 10.00am & 12 noon

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 Links to Parish Webcams. Live Church webcam links: CHURCH SERVICES. TV & MCN MEDIA CHURCH WEBCAMS

'Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready.'

John 6:11



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Parish Office Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 10.30am-4.00pm.
Closed 1.00pm-2.00pm.

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Email: lisburn@downandconnor.org
Pastoral Centre: 028 9260 7110
www.parishoflisburn.org

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

**Entrance Hymn or
Entrance Antiphon**

Cf. Ps 67:6-7, 36

**All: God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house; he
himself gives might and strength to his people.**

GREETING

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

All: Amen

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

**All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,**

Striking your breast as you say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

All: Amen

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

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: O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

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 second book of the Kings

4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144:10-11. 15-18 R v.16

**(R) You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and grant our desires.**

- All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **(R)**
- The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant desires of all who live. **(R)**
- The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians **4:1-6**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is the Father of all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

ACCLAMATION

Cf. Jn 6:63. 68

All: Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy
Gospel according to John

6:1-15

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

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: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. 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 (V in Ordinary Time)

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 you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed man in your own image and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and for ever praise you in your mighty works, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we 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, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice 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.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: **My Lord and my God.**

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

Ps 102:2

All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.**

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.
We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 forth, the Mass is ended.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

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Gospel Commentary

In this story everything is on a huge scale. Even the setting for the story is immense: it is the first mention of Jesus crossing the sea of Galilee. At the far side is a wide space where "a huge crowd" can gather. Jesus feeds the thousands; they not only have plenty, they have twelve baskets of bread left over.

It all speaks to us about immensity, about abundance: not the kind of abundance that comes from careful gathering and accounting (the people had come with no food); still less the kind that comes from defrauding one's neighbours; but the abundance of God's providence. "Lifting up his eyes, he saw the crowd..." (verse 5). It seems he wants us too to lift up our eyes, and not to live our lives by addition and subtraction when he is able to multiply goodness towards us.

Contrasted with the immensity of everything in that scene is the poverty of resources: five barley loaves and two fish to feed thousands of people. Why this sharp contrast?

Miracles seem to happen in situations of scarcity rather than plenty. Why? Because where there is plenty there is no need of miracles! Where there is plenty you don't have to struggle, you don't have to come up against realities too painfully, you ease your way through everything with a cheque-book. But in the story they had almost nothing. There were only five loaves to feed thousands; and they were barley loaves. This was the cheapest kind of bread; in fact barley was really considered animal-feed. It is only the very poor who would eat barley loaves. To be poor is to have no resources. That can have one of two effects: it can turn people in on themselves, filling them with resentment and self-pity; or it can turn them outwards to a real experience of God's Providence. Poverty can break people's spirit, that is why it is so urgent to fight against it. But equally, or more so, riches can destroy the human spirit, muffling it against reality and against God. Here is a rule of thumb: if you want a miracle, give something away, to make room for it.

Sitting on the ground is also a symbol of poverty and even powerlessness. We don't often sit on the ground nowadays, and hardly ever at Mass, but when we are at Mass we are those disciples in John 6, sitting on the ground (figuratively), in humility and simplicity, sharing our poverty and (because of it) sharing the Lord's gift.

In John's gospel there is no account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Instead, Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and said, equivalently, "Do this in memory of me." It is another kind of communion. Without that communion which is the service of others, the communion of the Eucharist is robbed of its fruit in one's life. Martin McNamara noted that in 11th-century Irish homilies the three elements for the celebration of any solemnity were: the liturgy of the word, the sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ, and concern for the poor and destitute.

Disciples in every century have continued to recognise him in service of others and in "the breaking of bread."

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

LEARN WHAT YOU ARE AND BE SUCH

The most precious gift we can give to those closest to us is honesty.
Yet we often hide our true selves from friends, fearing we won't be accepted
or loved if we let them see the real us.

Often, we show parts of ourselves that hide who we really are.
We often heard ourselves say, 'my parents would just die if...' or,
'don't argue in front of the children.'

If we hide too much behind false images, we run the risk of losing track
of what is real and what is false.

We become actors instead of real people, trying to please Aunt Jane,
Our grandparents, our big brother, or our children.

When we conquer our fear of letting others in, we are able to see ourselves honestly.
When we discover that others accept us as we are, we can accept and love ourselves.
To know oneself is to know a person of value.

MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Lord, I come now before you,
With feelings that I cannot share and try to hide,
With the emptiness that sometimes grips me,
And with the physical and mental pain that so often preoccupies me,
but I also come in faith and trust, and ask to be healed.
Heal me Lord, Heal me Lord.

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