

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

23rd March 2014

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Charity No. SC002876



Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-90)

Noticeboard

<u>Sunday Masses:</u>	Vigil Mass, Saturday	6 p.m.
	Sunday Morning Mass	10.30 a.m.
<u>Weekday Masses:</u>		10.15 a.m.
<u>Way of the Cross</u>	Wednesday, 7 p.m.	(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 6.30 to 7 p.m.)
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation:</u>	Saturday:	
		9.45 to 10 a.m.
		4 to 4.30 p.m.
		5.30 to 5.45 p.m.

Tuesday in the Solemnity of the Annunciation

Bishop Toal will be with us this weekend. He will welcome Thomas Wynne officially as a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate at our Sunday Morning Mass. This is an important moment in the life of our parish.

This Sunday, we have the traditional **Peter's Pence** collection to help Pope Francis carry out his Petrine leadership and service of the Church. We are sure that you will be generous as ever. And the same thoughtful generosity will be there when we have the Lenten **SCIAF** collection next week.

We pray for our Faithful Departed, especially those whose anniversaries are about this time: **Sister Elizabeth MacLaren, Fred MacLaren, Sarah Kennedy, Mary Allister MacDonald, Lena Maguire, Margaret Deeny, Flora MacInnes, Sheena MacConnachie, Simon MacKinnon, Marianne Brooks and Agnes Maguire.** May they rest in the peace of their Saviour.

Please make sure that you take home a copy of **Bishop Moran's letter** on behalf of SCIAF.

If you would like to buy a **rosary** for yourself or for another person, there are three samples at the back of the church, along with order forms. It is hoped that the rosaries you require will remain in stock at CBC in Newry. We will do our best. The prices are very reasonable.

In response to Pope Francis's invitation, the Cathedral in Oban has been designated as a place which offers the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for an extended period next Friday and Saturday: on Friday evening from 5pm to 10pm (during which time there will also be a period of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross and Evening Prayer) and on Saturday from 7am until 5pm.

Holy Communion will be taken to the housebound from Monday to Wednesday.

Please try to attend the **Stations of the Cross** at least once before Good Friday!



Find time to search for Sister Cristina Scuccia on the internet! The 25 year old Italian nun recently took part in the Italian version of "The Voice". She gave an extraordinary rendering of Alicia Keys' "No One". The expression on the faces of the four judges as they turn their seats to find that it was actually a nun who is singing is priceless, as is the excitement of her fellow sisters and friends in the audience. The u-tube presentations are a real delight to watch and listen to!

“Annunciation” by Denise Levertov (1923-1997)

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished,
almost always a lectern, a book; always
the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings,
the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering,
whom she acknowledges, a guest.

But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions
courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.
God waited.

She was free
to accept or to refuse, choice
integral to humanness.

Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?

Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.
More often
those moments

when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from

in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.

Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.
But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

She had been a child who played, ate, slept
like any other child—but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.
Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.



Denise Levertov was a British-born American citizen. Her father was a German Jew who converted to Christianity. He settled in Britain and became an Anglican priest. Denise's mother was Welsh. She was educated at home, and from a very early age was determined to be a writer. Aged only 12, she sent some of her poems to T.S. Eliot, who sent her a letter of encouragement and advice. In 1947 she married an American and settled in the United States. Over the years she produced many books of poetry and was very active in the opposition to the war in Vietnam. She became a Catholic shortly after moving to Seattle in 1989. In 1997, she brought together 38 poems from her earlier volumes and published them in a book entitled "The Stream & the Sapphire". This collection attempted, as she explained in the foreword, to "trace my slow movement from agnosticism to Christian faith, a movement incorporating much doubt and questioning as well as affirmation."

Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, 'How can this be?'
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel's reply,
the astounding ministry she was offered:

to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sum of power—
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love—

but who was God.

This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.

A breath unbreathed,
Spirit,
suspended,
waiting.

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'
She did not submit with gritted teeth,
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,
consent illumined her.
The room filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,
and the iridescent wings.

Consent,
courage unparalleled,
opened her utterly.