

The Baptistry Window at St Mary's



We are fortunate in St Mary's in having what is widely regarded to be one of the most beautiful churches in Dublin. It is very much appreciated by the many visitors who come here, particularly during the summer months. In our visitors' book one finds expressions of appreciation both for the spirit of our community Eucharist and the beauty of our church. This is something that we are proud of and is worth celebrating.

Central to the interior of the church is the stained glass. One author has noted that: 'St. Mary's is fortunate to have such a rich variety of stained glass and it provides parishioners and visitors alike with an opportunity to see and appreciate European and Irish stained-glass side by side.'

One of the more hidden pieces of stained glass of St Mary's church is in the baptistry, near the front door, on the left as one enters the church. This is *The Baptism of the Lord* by Beatrice Elvery, which is one of four very beautiful, interesting and historically important pieces of Irish stained glass in the church, the others being A.E. Child's (875-1939) *St Cecilia*, created in 1910, and the two very impressive windows by the Earley company, *Christ the King*, a work that dates to the 1920s and the great *Rose Window*, created in 1940.

Beatrice Elvery (1881-1970), later known as Lady Glenavy, was a painter, stained glass artist and sculptor. She was the second daughter of the Dublin businessman, William Elvery, whose family originated from Spain where they were silk merchants. The family owned the original Elvery's Sports Store in Wicklow St. Educated in the Belfast School of Art, when she was sixteen years old she won a three week scholarship to the Royal College of Art in South Kensington, London, where she took her first steps towards becoming a profession artist.

Glenavy first exhibited her work at the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1902. From 1902-1969, she showed a total of two hundred works at the RHA. Having exhibited several times in Dublin, she then travelled to London to study for a year in the Slade School of Fine Art and then when she returned to Dublin again she taught in the Metropolitan School of Art. When Sarah Purser founded her studio An Túr Gloine (The Tower of Glass) in 1903, she invited Beatrice Elvery to be one of the designers and her first commission of six windows was installed in the Convent of Mercy in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh in 1905.

The St Mary's window, located in the baptistry, was painted in 1910, and is dedicated to the memory of the Rev W. Donnelly C.C who had died in 1861. As with the A.E. Child window, created that same year, it was made with the assistance of Catherine or Kitty O'Brien (1881-1963) of An Túr Gloine. Experts draw attention to the use of perspective as well as the painting of the figures, the coming of the Holy Spirit (dove), the waters of the Jordan, the pail of water used in baptising the Lord, and the cedar tree. What the picture cannot convey is the words that open for us the meaning of this important event in Jesus' life. God is heard saying "This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased." These words confirm Jesus' identity as the Son of God. The crowds of people standing on the banks of the River Jordan will know for certain that this is the greater person John has been telling them about. In this act, accepting the baptism of John, Jesus submits himself to the will of God and in his submersion in the waters of the great river, he prefigures his own death and resurrection.

It is certainly a beautiful window, calm and serene, and an excellent example of the Irish stained glass of that early period.

St Mary's
Parish

Serving
the
Community

Serving
the
Family

Serving
the
City

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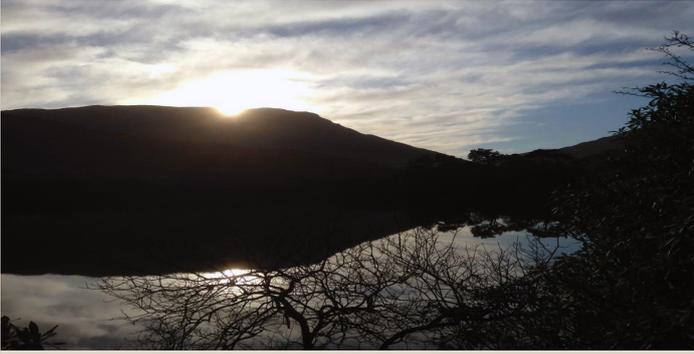
Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

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Two Winter Poems



Snow Light

by Kelly King Walden

It's winter white in the house right now –
Still light
Reflecting off the white
Illuminating everything with snow glow
Despite the dusk settling in
Twilighting the sky.

An ethereal extension of time,
A suspension of day,
The snow light creates a temporal portal,
A fold in the fabric.
Unexpected light granting unexpected time,
Delaying the darkness.

I, too, am suspended,
Filled with the gravity and wonderment of
These moments that shouldn't exist.
The still light
Gives me a glimpse over the snow horizon
Into timelessness, and –
For a moment – I exist in eternity.

Good Hours

by Robert Frost

I had for my winter evening walk –
No one at all with whom to talk,
But I had the cottages in a row
Up to their shining eyes in snow.

And I thought I had the folk within:
I had the sound of a violin;
I had a glimpse through curtain laces
Of youthful forms and youthful faces.

I had such company outward bound.
I went till there were no cottages found.
I turned and repented, but coming back
I saw no window but that was black.

Over the snow my creaking feet
Disturbed the slumbering village street
Like profanation, by your leave,
At ten o'clock of a winter eve.



We Are The Hands Of Christ

MARCIA A. NEWTON

We are the hands of Christ, embracing the
ones in need.

We are the hands of Christ, caring for those
who plead.

We are the hands of Christ, sharing our bread to feed.
We are the hands of Christ, serving the ones who need.

We are the hands of compassion, hands that serve,
hands that lift up.

We are the hands that feed the poor, hands that com-
fort, hands that heal.

We are the hands of Christ.

We are the hands that touch the sick, hands that bless,
hands that teach.

We are the hands that welcome the lost, hands that
support, reach out in peace.

We are the hands of Christ.

We are the hands that offer strength, hands that guide,
hands that pray.

We are the hands that wipe the tears, love and protect,
prepare the meals.

We are the hands of Christ.

We are the hands that till the Earth, knead the bread,
mend the clothes.

We are the hands that plant the seeds, harvest the
crops, build the homes.

We are the hands of Christ.

In Memoriam

Weekend of 16/17 January

9.30am : Pat O'Mahony

11am Larry & Ita Connaughton and grandson John

ALL DAILY MASSES THIS WEEK
10am Online