



Celebration of International Marriage Week 2026

Impressions of pilgrims to the Shrine of St Valentine, Whitefriar Street, Dublin.

“Eight couples from Navan and Dublin, led by Fr. Declan Hurley, became pilgrims for a day, converging on the shrine of St. Valentine, Whitefriar Street Church, Dublin.

Before Mass, we had a time of reflection and sharing on 1Kings 19:7-15, led by Fr. Declan. We pondered together, the same question spoken by the Lord to Elijah, on Mount Horeb, “What are you doing here?”

Following the celebration of the Eucharist, we and other visiting couples, received a blessing of our marriages and our wedding rings. It was a moment of joy and gratitude.

Saying fond farewell to the Dublin couples, our day concluded with dinner back in Navan!” Maureen & Pat



1 Kings 19: 7-13,15

The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.” So he got up and ate and drank.

Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.

When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him,

“What are you doing here, Elijah?”

...The Lord said to him, “Go back the way you came”...



"What are you doing here?"

1 Kings 19:8-15



"It was lovely to spend some couple time together in reflection on the scripture."

Gerard & Brigid.

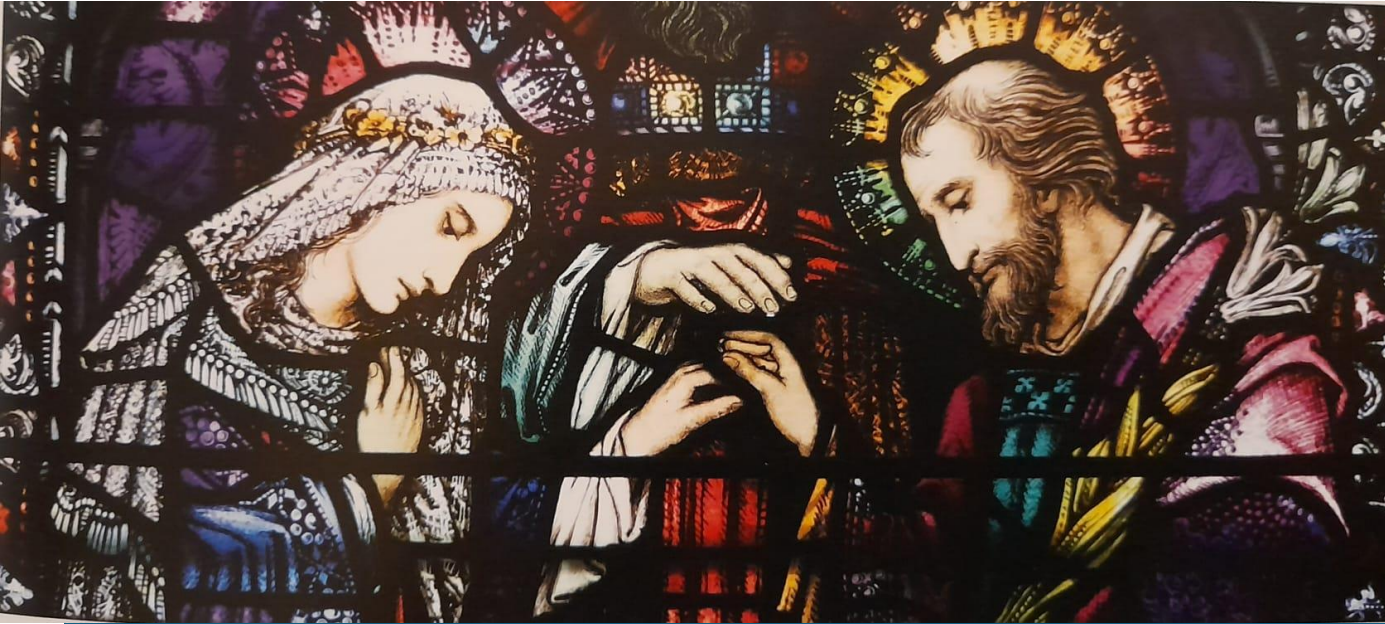
"This scripture was a powerful reminder that God often chooses to meet us not in the grand, expected gestures, but in the quiet, overlooked corners of our lives."

Stefano & Valentina.

"Joining the pilgrimage was like withdrawing into a cave for a period of time (cf. 1 Kings 19:9-15) to be nourished by the Lord." Mark & Anne

"We recognise God's power to renew our strength and purpose when we feel most helpless. He gives us courage to begin again." Brendan & Rosemarie.

"We appreciated the time of gentle reflection with realistic & thought-provoking questions which have given us food for conversations, even after the day ended." Robert & Una.



The betrothal of Mary and Joseph in stained glass at St. Teresa's
Carmelite Church, Clarendon Street, Dublin.
Harry Clarke Studio/Joshua Clarke & Sons.

Blessing of Rings Ceremony

“This blessing of our rings sealed us again for mission & reminded us of Yahweh's instruction to Elijah (v. 15) "Go...go back by the same way..." Anne & Mark.

“We felt a renewed sense of commitment. It was a beautiful affirmation of our union. We left Whitefriar Street Church, feeling more connection between us and with the Lord.” Valentina & Stefano.

We were blessed by the number of visitors to the Church who joined us in prayer, some of whom entered into conversation with us. An unexpected opportunity to witness to the Gospel of Love! Fr Declan.

“The blessing of rings was moving as we examined our relationship and expressed our gratitude for 32 years of marriage.” Joke & Bola.

“We recalled how we depend on God’s grace which helps us to love and live the covenant of marriage.” Michelle & Brendan.

“We are so grateful for the outpouring of the Spirit on our marriage and were reminded of our wedding day scripture: “A cord of three strands is not easily broken” Maureen & Pat.