



**Staff of the Pro-Cathedral** - Fr Kieran McDermott, Adm., Sr. Patricia Somers, RSC (Parish Sister)  
Fr Brendan Staunton, SJ, (Parish Chaplain)

### Mass Times

**Monday to Friday:** 10.30 a.m. and 12.45 p.m.

**Saturday:** 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. (*Vigil Mass*)

**Sunday:** 9.30 a.m., 11.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.

### Confessions

Monday to Saturday after the 10.30 a.m. Mass

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Monday to Friday after the 10.30 a.m. Mass to 12.30 p.m.

**Thank You** 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> Collection €1,180 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection €750



## Mary Aikenhead

Mary Aikenhead, the first child of Dr David Aikenhead and Mary Stacpole was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1787 in Cork. David her father was Anglican and her mother was Catholic. As a very young child Mary because of poor health was fostered to John and Mary Rorke who were Catholic. Mary was cared for lovingly by the Rorkes and loved them as her second parents. She loved attending Mass with Mammy Rorke. At the age of six Mary returned to her family. Her love for God and the suffering poor grew as she herself grew into womanhood.

In 1815 Mary founded the Religious Sisters of Charity. She began by visiting the sick poor in their homes. As she became aware of the needs of the people she established schools, hospitals and orphanages. She also visited the prison. For the last 27 years of her life Mary was confined to her bed or a wheelchair. Her vision and energy were not weakened by this confinement, but distilled into a deeper vision of service. Mary died on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1858. On hearing the news of her death, a poor farmer paid her this tribute: "That matchless woman! In her, Ireland's poor have lost their best friend." After her death, her vision 'to give to the poor what the rich can buy with money' continued to grow and spread in Ireland, Australia, England, Scotland, Zambia, Malawi, California, Nigeria and Venezuela.

The process of Mary's canonisation began in 1908 when she was declared **Servant of God**. On the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, our Bi-Centenary year Pope Francis declared Mary Aikenhead '**Venerable**' as it had been proven that she was a woman of heroic virtue. The next stage on the journey to sainthood when Mary would be declared 'Blessed' requires a miracle, and so we continue to make her known and we pray for the healing of people through her intercession.

Today, while Sisters are fewer, Mary Aikenhead's vision continues to live on in the lives of those who become 'Friends of Mary Aikenhead.' The Mary Aikenhead Heritage Centre is located at Our Lady's Mount, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W. Ph No 086 724 7660

A connection here with St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral is that there are five Religious Sisters of Charity interred in the Crypt of the Cathedral. There is a plaque marking this on the wall on the right hand side as you come into the Cathedral.

Our present Parish Sister, Sr Patricia Somers is also a member of the Congregation of the Religious Sisters of Charity.

## Christian Unity Week

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place from Sunday 18 – Saturday 25 January on the theme "*They showed us unusual kindness*" (Acts 28:2).

Also on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of January at 11.00am, RTE will broadcast a service of worship for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year, the service will be led by friends of Ecumenical Bible Week (EBW), a Dublin based ecumenical project. EBW has taken place in the greater Dublin area since 2014, bringing together a diversity of believers for prayer and reflection in June each year. Both Archbishops of Dublin have lent their personal and institutional support since the start. The topic for this year's EBW is "Faith in the Public Square." : [www.bibleweek.ie](http://www.bibleweek.ie)