

## A few words from the Parish Priest.....

When I was a younger priest it was important to decide about a year in advance which weeks to block out in the diary for summer holidays. If I was slow to make up my mind on the dates then weddings would be booked into the diary during the summer months and it would be very difficult to find a free fortnight or three weeks, to get away. Well that has all changed dramatically, during this whole summer I didn't have a single wedding so far. In fact, during the past few years I might only have 2 or 3 weddings each year in total. So, what has changed? Couples are still getting married, maybe fewer than before, but many choose a civil or humanist service and don't come to the Church for God's blessing or to celebrate the Sacrament. Some marry abroad, and others choose to go to smaller venues in the country. Couples are usually over 30 when they get engaged and 32 seems to me an average age to get married now. The weddings are well planned, and the couples take on a lot of responsibility and expense that earlier parents would have carried. The hopes and expectations of the bride and groom are pretty much identical to 30 years ago: Each hopes to be happy, to have married their best friend, to be loyal, faithful, and true, to each other for life. If they haven't already become parents then children are expected and being a family they know will bring them great joy. They get great support from their families; their friends travel back from all over the world to join in the celebration; and the whole wedding event might take two or three days. Weddings are very happy celebrations. Personally, I would love to encourage couples to come and talk to their priest and consider getting married in Church. It doesn't have to be an elaborate celebration, and can accommodate all levels of faith and practice. Asking for God's seal on our human love; drawing on the strength of the Sacrament; and celebrating with the Christian community are all supports to the very challenging, joyful, adventure that is married life. Maybe we all need to reach out and encourage our young people to reflect on where to get married, and to talk about the ways that faith has helped our marriages and how faith builds on love.

### Feast of the Assumption Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Masses at: 7.30am and 10.00am

## Collections 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,056  
Share Collection: €738

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month.

**St Vincent de Paul** monthly collection takes place after all Masses this Sunday. Your ongoing generosity is very much appreciated.

**Dublin Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes** Thank you to all who contributed and helped to raise €1,000.00 towards the Pilgrimage Fund.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning after 10.00am Mass. Meditation is the quiet prayer of faith, silence, stillness and simplicity handed on to us by the Benedictine Monk, John Main O.S.B. All are welcome.

**Gianna Care** provides compassionate, life-affirming and confidential care during pregnancy. If you would like further information, please see notices at back of church or call 086 0293727

**SeniorLine** is urgently looking for women and men aged 55+ to train as telephone line volunteers. Training begins in September. SeniorLine is a national service for older people who may be lonely, unsupported, or with specific problems. For further information, please phone: Anne at 087-7450721.

**Pathways: Exploring Faith as an Adult:** *Pathways* is a two-year, one-evening-a-week, Adult Faith Development course in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe Road. Sept to May, on Thursdays 7.00pm – 9.30pm. **Contact:** *Pathways* Director, Eileen Houlahan at 01 8087594 or [pathways@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:pathways@dublindiocese.ie) or [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie).

**Computers for the Terrified.** If you are frustrated by your lack of computer skills, or feel that the digital age has passed you by, Age Action runs beginner courses for older people who have little or no experience with 1 to 1 training for over 55's. For more information, please phone 01 4756989.

**Grow** Community Mental Health Movement meets every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Carmelite Community Centre, 56 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Why not come along and learn more about positive mental health, well-being, and how GROW may help you achieve this, free of charge. Phone: John 086 8033126.

**Volunteers:** St Vincent De Paul urgently needs volunteers in the areas of Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare to work just once a week. This will be for about 3 hours, day or night, (whatever suits you best). Full training and support provided - for more information Tel: 01 8198405 or visit: [www.SVP.ie](http://www.SVP.ie) / [volunteer@svp.ie](mailto:volunteer@svp.ie)

### 7.30am Mass in August

The Monday to Friday 7.30am Mass will continue during August.