

A few words from the Parish Priest....

During the week I prepared, participated in, and reflected on a Ceremony of Light. There is something wonderful about the Candidates for Confirmation; I guess it is their youthful energy, their open minds and their huge hearts. Preparing for Confirmation gives them a chance to reflect on the traditions of the Church, on the joy of knowing God's presence in their lives, and on the opportunity to take a glimpse into the future. Who among us had any idea when we were eleven or twelve what lay ahead? Who knew what inner strength we might need, or had a clue what blessings life would bring, what challenges we might face? Our young people are clearly loved and cherished in their homes; and the connection they have with their parents and guardians is so evident in the ceremony when the candle is being passed from one generation to the next. What began as a hope in Baptism, that they would be children of the light, is now celebrated by the people who see them as the light of their lives. This total, unconditional, and affectionate love is a real blessing from God and a joy to see. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, that they prayed for in the ceremony, don't come gift-wrapped; the Spirit comes into our flesh and blood, our heart and soul, and transforms our words and actions with the power of God's invitation to live life to the full and make the very most of our gifts and talents. The young people get that; they are brimming with hope and expectation and ready for the adventure of life that lies ahead. They need our encouragement, our support, and our prayers. Please affirm any young person you know, and share your experience of faith with them.

Parish Pastoral Council next meeting takes place this Monday 11th March at 7.30pm in St Columba's Room, 49 Rathgar Road.

Mass at 7.25am

Continuing this week, the first Mass of the morning Monday to Friday, will be at **7.25am**.

Collections 3rd March 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,435
Share Collection: €711

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

St Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection will be held today Sunday 10th March 2019. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Christian Meditation takes place every Thursday morning after 10.00am Mass in St. Brigid's Room. 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.

New Youth Choir now forming in Ballinteer Community School on Tuesdays 7.00pm -8.00pm. Open for Post-Primary boys and girls. Phone Tony at 089 2531261 or see notice at the back of the church for further details.

The Bethany Bereavement Group meeting will be held in Rathgar Parish Centre, 52 Grosvenor Road, on Wed 13th March at 8.00pm and at The Milltown Parish Centre on Wed 20th March at 8.00pm.

Lenten Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, with Fr. Kieran O' Mahony OSA, on Mondays 11th and 18th March at 7.30p.m in the Holy Rosary Pastoral Centre, Harold's Cross. All Welcome.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter for Special Needs Children. Many thanks for your support for the Sale of Work last Sunday, which raised €4,500.

Dublin County Choir accompanied by The Absolute Music Ensemble, will perform Haydn's *Creation, Part 1* in St John's Church Ballinteer on Saturday 30th March at 8.00pm. Tickets €15

Rathgar Ladies Club **Change of Venue** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. The next meeting will feature Diane Gallagher with her Flower Arranging demonstration titled '*Flowers for Spring*' on Thursday 14th March at 8.00pm. New members always welcome.

Anam Cara Wicklow is holding its monthly Parent Evening on Monday 18th March at 7:20pm in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents. For more information, visit www.anamcara.ie or call 085 2888 888.

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 14th March at 10.30am in St Columba's Room, 49 Rathgar Road. New members welcome.