

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

Matthew 7:24



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The parish Child Safeguarding and Protection representatives may be contacted through the parish office.

Mass times in Three Patrons Rathgar

Please note 7.30am mass will be suspended until further notice.

Sunday 10.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am

Tuesday and Thursday 5.30pm
You may access our parish webcam at <https://churchmedia.tv/camera/the-church-of-the-3-patrons>

There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm to 7pm Monday to Saturday.

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, **8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.**



Poinsettias and Red Plants to decorate the Church for Christmas will be most welcome. Please leave your gift at the altar rails any time in the next 10 day . Thank you.

HOMILY

Last Sunday the gospel presented us with one of the great Advent symbols, the figure, the life, of John the Baptist. John's preaching was strong and insistent, almost strident in its urgency, and his prophecy gives Advent an urgent flavour.

But there is another Advent symbol that gives unique flavour to our Christian vocation to wait for the coming of the Lord. And that figure, of course, is Mary. She more concretely than anyone, knew what it meant to wait for Christ. She waited with an intensity of expectation that no other human being could possibly match.

Far from the disturbed, agitated, almost fearful expectation of John, Mary's wait was a quiet thing, a serene thing.

So, Mary gives to Advent a quality of joy and confidence. She makes the season a call not only to repentance but a call as well to a confident self-giving, a time of acceptance that, whatever form the coming of the Lord may take, whenever it happens, it will be good.

And that underlines why Mary is the Mother of the Church. She said 'Yes'. Not 'Maybe', not 'I'll try', not 'Ok, until it gets unpleasant', but simply unhesitatingly 'Yes'. God made demands of her. He asked her to disrupt her life, to do things she couldn't possibly understand, that couldn't possibly make sense, and her answer, the last line in today's Gospel, models what the faith response of every believer must be like: 'I am the servant of the Lord. Let whatever you say be done.'

That is not to say she was any freer from doubts or temptations to self-centeredness than we are. But it does mean that by the grace of the Immaculate Conception, she was made able by God to overcome those doubts and temptations, to act in spite of them.

This doctrine, the grace we celebrate today, the Immaculate Conception, really places Mary firmly in the role not only of the Mother of Christ but of the Mother of us all as well. The word of God comes to each of us no less insistently than it came to Mary, no less demandingly. We too are asked to accept the values of Christ, to internalise them, to make them completely our own, with no reservation, no compromise. Mary was asked to do that very much in contradiction to the values and morals of her time. So are we. Mary was assured that she would be asked nothing beyond her ability to respond. So are we.

COVID 19

Regrettably, the rate of Covid transmission is once again reaching high levels. We would ask that you wear face masks when in the church, sanitise your hands and maintain social distance in order to protect the health of all who come into the church.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays remains suspended and you are welcome to attend Mass here on weekdays.