

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

This weekend we mark Good Shepherd Sunday and include within our prayers a petition for vocations to the priesthood. For the first time in my life we are not having a collection for the support of candidates in training for priesthood. Over the years you have been generous in supporting this collection, and with a good amount of money in the fund, and only a handful of seminarians, there just is no need to have a collection. This is of course a sign of change that is very challenging to us all: We have an aging clergy, very few young priests, and hardly any seminarians. Our way of being church, and parish, is becoming centred on lay leadership, both voluntary and paid. To this end next weekend, we will have a collection to support the training and work of lay leaders for our parishes. It will be very important from this time on that we have well-trained men and women in our parishes to take on many of the aspects of pastoral life that was previously done by priests. The formation of children for sacraments; meeting families for baptism; couples for weddings; the bereaved for funerals; leading public prayer in the absence of a priest; and managing the church buildings and staff. All of this important work will have to carry on. In these Easter days we recall the very simple beginning of the Church, how it depended on 'disciples' to share the good news, and men and women working together to cover all the ministries. All the church has ever needed are people passionate about faith and committed to the service of others.

Ministry Sunday Collection This new collection will replace the Share collection next Sunday 19th May, and will be devoted to supporting the building up of new forms of lay ministry in our parishes. The work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus in our changing religious culture will require more lay men and women working in various ways alongside our priests at the heart of parish communities. This collection is about ensuring that we will have the people we need – men and women who will be to the fore in making our parishes vibrant faith communities into the future.

Parish Pastoral Council next meeting takes place this Monday 13th May at 7.30pm in St Columba's Room, 49 Rathgar Road.

New Envelope System for Collections at Weekend Masses from June 2019

Please see the insert with today's newsletter for further details of this new initiative

Collections 5th May 2019

Offertory Collection: 1,348

Share Collection: 708

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

St Vincent de Paul Collection will be held today Sunday 12th May. Your generosity is much appreciated.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated today Sunday 12th May and next Sunday 19th May at the 10.30am Family Mass. Please remember all our children and their families in your prayers

Good Shepherd Sunday The Annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations takes place today Sunday 12th May.

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.

Lough Derg St Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage 2019 will take place on three Fridays: 31st May; 5th July; and 9th August. See poster at the back of the Church for details, or phone Miriam at: 01 4941171.

Rathgar Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to Dublin 6 and 14. If you can help, please contact Suzanne at 086 3611524 or email: 1965annesley@gmail.com.

Diocesan Priesthood: Is God calling you to be a Diocesan Priest? The National Vocations Office is running an overnight 'Come and See' discernment retreat for men (18 years and over) who would like to explore the life of a diocesan priest. Further information from Deacon Eric Cooney at eric.cooney@vocations.ie

Jubilate Choir, will perform Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* at St Ann's Church Dawson Street, on Saturday 18th May at 6pm. The conductor will be Amy Ryan. Tickets €20 at the door, or from Eventbrite.ie

The Firhouse Singers are hosting a concert to help raise funds for Holy Ghost Fr. John Kingston's cyclone relief work in Mozambique. The concert will take place on Wednesday 15th at 7.30pm in Firhouse Community College. Please see flyer at back of Church for more details.

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, Harold's Cross, is asking for volunteers to help with fundraising on Sunflower Days, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June 2019. If you can help, please contact Mary Brien or Ann Julian on 01 4911072 or mbrien@olh.ie

Heart to Hand. A huge thanks from Heart to Hand for your most generous response to their appeal for food items on Good Friday. It is greatly appreciated by all.