

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

“Are you happy?” I’ve been asked that question many times since sharing the information that the Archbishop recently appointed me to be Administrator of Clonskeagh Parish in addition to my role here in Rathgar. I always say “yes, I am very happy”; it’s a simple answer to a complex question. Taking on this new role means meeting a new parish community, and learning about their needs, hopes and expectations. It is clear that the people who gather for Mass there really want a daily celebration of the Eucharist, and that is very uplifting. The Sunday congregation is small in the Summer, and the church is huge, so when I’m standing at the altar it can feel that the people are far away and scattered throughout the church; that is not a happy feeling, but surely will improve in the autumn. The deeper questions about the future of parishes, and how the next generation will participate in the life of the Church are more difficult to address. There is a terrible temptation to carry on doing what we are familiar with, even though that model of church isn’t thriving. It is very difficult to say “Ok that’s not working let’s do something different!” It’s hard to know where to start; you don’t want to alienate the people who do participate, and there is no blueprint for bringing back those who have become disconnected from parish life. The church is dedicated to the Miraculous Medal, and Mary the Mother of God is patron, so I think I will begin by asking for her intercession and guidance. This prayer alongside listening to the people and discerning how the Spirit is guiding us, is perhaps the path to real happiness.

Papal Mass at Three Patrons To celebrate the arrival of Pope Francis, and to accommodate those who are unable to attend his Mass, we are arranging to have a screening in St Patrick’s Hall of the Papal Mass on 26th August from 12.30pm. As places are limited, we would ask those interested to give their name and phone number into the Parish Office as soon as possible. All are welcome to attend, and the usual delightful refreshments will be served by the hospitality team.

Collections: 5th August 2018

Offertory Collection: €1,033
Share Collection: €629

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

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

Volunteers are needed for the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 19th August and **9am Mass** on Sunday 26th of August, the day of the Papal Mass. The notice is on the side aisle, and we would appreciate if you could assist by putting your name on the list. Thank you.

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.

The Irish Cancer Society needs an extra 80 drivers for their Volunteer Driver Service in South Dublin to drive cancer patients to and from chemotherapy appointments. They are looking for drivers with who have a car available to them, and who would be able to commit to driving at least two full days a month. Please call Laura on 01 2310 594, or email transport@irishcancer.ie for an application form.

Irish Wheelchair Association. Have you got a head for heights? Why not take part in Irish Wheelchair Association’s Abseil in Croke Park on Saturday 6th October. Find out more on: www.iwa.ie/abseil

BA in Theology and Religious Studies now has a new home on the DCU All Hallows Campus. In this course students have the chance to explore Scripture, theology, ethics, faith formation, and a host of other subjects on the lovely DCU All Hallows Campus. This programme is aimed at mature students (23+), and is offered in a flexible manner (one evening per week, a few Saturdays per year) to suit those with careers and other responsibilities. The programme offers a full honours level Bachelor’s degree, but there are also options for graduating with a certificate or diploma for those who might find that a full degree is more than they are looking for. There is still time to apply for the upcoming academic year (2018/19), and please contact brad.anderson@dcu.ie or phone: 01 700 7048.

Relics of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux at WMOF2018 The Carmelites have arranged that the relics of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, and their youngest daughter, Saint Thérèse, will come from Lisieux to Ireland to coincide with the World Meeting of Families 2018. The Relics will be on view in **Whitefriar St Church** on Wed 22nd and Thurs 23rd August. Please see notice at the back of the Church.