

# The Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar Parish Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Parish Priest :** Fr Paul Taylor, PP,VF. Ph:4971058  
**Parish Chaplains:** Fr Michael Commame,OP  
Fr William King  
**Parish Administrator:** Caroline Nolan  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Cepta Lyons  
**Parish Pastoral Worker:** Jackie Hearne

**Parish Office Opening Hours:**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:30am – 12.30pm  
Sunday: 10.30am – 12.30pm  
**Phone:** 01 4972215

**NEW EMAIL:** [office@rathgarparish.ie](mailto:office@rathgarparish.ie)

**Website:** [www.rathgarparish.ie](http://www.rathgarparish.ie).

**Radio Link:** P.B. Band 145 - 155



*Third Sunday of Advent*

**The Diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy** is published on all notice boards in the Church and the Parish Centre, and copies of the document are available to read in the Parish Office and the Parish Centre. For further information please see [www.csps.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.csps.dublindiocese.ie)

**We are very happy to announce the return of public Masses to Three Patrons  
From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
With a limit of 50 people in the church at any time.**

**To allow for one hour between Masses, we have had to change  
our Sunday schedule:**

## **Three Patrons**

**Sunday: 10.00am; 12 noon; 5.30pm.**

Monday to Friday: 7.30am  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10.00am  
Tuesday, Thursday: 5.30pm

These Masses will also be available to view  
on the parish webcam at [rathgarparish.ie](http://rathgarparish.ie)

## **Beechwood Parish**

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm  
Sunday (as Gaeilge) 9.00am; 10.45  
Tuesday, Thursday: 10.00am.

**Webcam:** [Beechwoodparish.com](http://Beechwoodparish.com)

## **Christmas and New Year Liturgies 2020/21**

<b>Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.00am; 12.00 noon; 5.30pm
<b>21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	7.30am; 10am
<b>Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>	Penitential Service 7.30pm (Webcam)
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	10.00am; 4.00pm; 7.00pm
<b>Christmas Day</b>	8.00am; 10.00am; 12.00 noon
<b>St Stephen's Day</b>	<b>11.00am.</b>
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	10.00am; 12 noon; 5.30pm
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup>; Wed 30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am
<b>Tues 29<sup>th</sup>; Thurs 31<sup>st</sup></b>	5.30pm
<b>Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021</b>	<b>11.00am</b>
<b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2021</b>	10.00am
<b>Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2021</b>	10.00am; 12 noon; 5.30pm
<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021</b>	10.00am
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021</b>	5.30pm
<b>Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021</b>	Feast of the Epiphany 7.30am; 10.00am; 5.30pm.

*7.30am Mass will resume on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January*

**Everyone who visits the church must wear a face covering, and practice hand  
sanitising and social distancing, in order to protect everyone's health**

**Welcome back! – and stay safe and well everybody**

Eucharistic Adoration  
will take place  
Monday – Saturday  
6.00pm – 7.00pm



## Two little words with powerful meaning

Michael Commane

If you were asked to write a 500-word essay on the word love what would you say? Or indeed if you were asked to write another 500 words on what the word God means for you, how do you think it would work out?

St Matthew (Mt 22: 34 - 40) writes there are two great commandments, to love God and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. St Paul (1Thessalonians 1: 5 - 10) tells us that the love of Christ is beyond all knowledge.

In theology class fadó fadó I remember sitting up in my seat when I heard a lecturer saying that God is love.

It's so easy to misuse words and maybe especially words that we regularly use. And sometimes the words we use never fully capture what we are trying to say. The two words love and God are enormous in their meaning and I think it's true to say that we seldom if ever get a handle on either of them. I was heartened to read that St Paul said that the love of Christ is beyond all knowledge. In one sentence we get a hint of the difficulty in talking about God or love.

It's custom and practice at Christian weddings that the readings at the Mass speak about love, the love of God and our love for one another. Couples profess their undying love to each other. It's a lovely idea but I'm back scratching my head, just a little, and asking myself what exactly love is. The smart answer might be that we know what it is when we experience it for ourselves. I like to say that all acts of love give us the tiniest of inklings into the love of God.

Oscar Wilde, famous for his incisive quips, sometimes maybe too incisive, advises us never to love anyone who treats us as if we were ordinary.

It's clever and makes good sense. And again, he's alluding to the extraordinariness of that word love.

Every day in the hospital where I work I see people carrying out acts of love. Every day I see staff carrying out extraordinary acts of love. You might say, but that's their job. Yes, so it is but that doesn't make it any less loving.

In these dark days of Covid every act of kindness spells love and we believe God is love and love is God. It makes much more sense to see Christianity as a living reality rather than a dogma of rules and regulation



Today is Bambinelli Sunday, and the Infant Jesus will be blessed at 10.00am Mass, before being placed in the Crib on the altar.

## Collections on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**First Collection** €1,065

**Second Collection** €823

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month. If you would like to contribute during the current lockdown, please use the envelopes at the back of the church, or the **DONATE** button at [rathgarparish.ie](http://rathgarparish.ie). *Thank you*

### Christmas at St Vincent de Paul.



As Christmas approaches, we know many of you have been wondering how to contribute to the usual household collection for St Vincent dePaul. This year, it has been decided instead to purchase vouchers for those in need. With that in mind, we will leave envelopes at the back of the church for your donation, which you can then put into the safe beside the Pieta shrine, and there is also a St Vincent de Paul donation facility on the 'DONATE' button at: [rathgarparish.ie](http://rathgarparish.ie). Your continued generosity at this time is very much appreciated.

*Thank you.*

### Bethany Bereavement Support Service Rathgar, Rathmines and Milltown

Bethany is an Irish parish-based support service for the bereaved and all who have suffered significant loss of any kind. We are conscious of the need for support in these difficult times and whilst we normally offer monthly group meetings, we are currently offering a free and confidential phone listening service. If you would like to talk to a trained, supportive listener, please phone: 087 2841276

### Booking for Christmas Masses

To allow you to plan your attendance at Mass for Christmas, it has been decided to set up a booking system for Masses on the following days:  
(with a maximum of 50 people at each Mass)

**Christmas Eve:** 4.00pm; 7.00pm

**Christmas day:** 8.00am; 10.00am; 12 noon

There are forms at the back of the church which you can complete and place in the safe at the Pieta shrine, or email your name, phone number, and choice of Mass to Caroline at: [cnolan@rathgarparish.ie](mailto:cnolan@rathgarparish.ie)

**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 days.  
*Thank you.*

