

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

The celebration of Baptism is always an uplifting and happy occasion in the parish, and the joy that each new child brings to their parents and wider family circle is clear to see. Baptism is a beginning, a first step into the community of the church and the start of lifelong learning about the mystery of God's love. Parents and Godparents make a strong promise that they will teach their child in the ways of faith, by example and by joining with the faith community when it gathers for prayer. Schools and parishes will play their part too, but nothing can compete with the nurture of faith within the Christian home. In the home the daily sharing of life, full of the kindness, care, and prayer of parents and siblings, is the first and greatest experience of Church that any of us can hope for. In the home we learn about love and sacrifice; to celebrate and to share; to sin and to forgive; to build healthy relationships; and then to go into the world to make a difference. We might call this 'Gospel Living' a way of life that radiates out from the heart that has accepted the Spirit of God and wants to bring the light of Christ to others. Every single day challenges each of us to live out our baptismal call to holiness.

### Christmas Dues

A huge word of thanks to all those who have returned a Christmas Dues Offering during recent weeks. The money contributed to the Christmas Dues is for the support of your priests; there is no retirement fund for priests in the Dublin Diocese. The monies contributed to the first collection at Mass, the Dues at Christmas and Easter and offerings at Weddings, Baptisms and Funeral are used to support working priests and those older men who are now retired many of whom are cared for in nursing homes. Their care is very costly and only affordable because of the kindness of those who contribute. If at all possible, any time in the coming weeks, please pick up a 'Dues' envelope and make a donation. In recent years, with smaller numbers coming to Mass, the Dues collection has reduced by about a third so we really need all our active parishioners and those who care for the welfare of these older men, to make a contribution. Thank you.

### Volunteers:

The parish has wonderful volunteers who are talented, generous with their time and invaluable to the life and ministries of the church. There are always openings for more people to offer their time to an activity or ministry that they might enjoy. A couple of areas of parish activity are very urgently in need of support from volunteers. Each day we need someone to close up the Church: lock the doors, turn out the lights, check that the alarm is on. Is this something you might be interested in? For the Sunday 6.15pm Mass we need a few people to volunteer their time as sacristans and collectors. Until recently we had a wonderful man who came each week and supported that Mass, but he has now retired. There are also openings for people to join the Baptism Team and the Funeral Ministry. If you are interested please contact Caroline, our Parish Administrator, at [3patrons@eircom.net](mailto:3patrons@eircom.net) or 01-4972215 during office hours, 9.30am – 12.30pm

## Collections 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,604  
Share Collection: €948

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

**Aisling Lakes**, our Cantor at 12 noon Mass continues to improve following her surgery, and we send her our thoughts and prayers. We welcome Maeve Coghlan today, who will replace Aisling for the coming weeks.

**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.

**Gianna Care** provides compassionate, life-affirming and confidential care during pregnancy. If you would like further information, please see notices at back of church or call 086 0293727.

**Save the Date:** World Day of the Sick 2019 will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic '*Community Struggle with Addiction - A Pastoral Response*'. More details closer to the time.

**St. Louis Infant and Primary Schools** will be hosting an Open Morning on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 10.30am to 12.00 noon for parents and children who would like to apply for Sept 2019. Applications for boys and girls for September 2019 will be accepted up to **2.30pm on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2019**. Further information from Barbara on 4972188, or [www.stlouis.ie](http://www.stlouis.ie).

**Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock**, will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The pilgrimage will be led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, and will celebrate 140 years of the Marian Shrine. Full details later, or [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie)

**Christian Unity Week, 18-25 Jan 2019.** The inaugural service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, organised by Dublin Council of Churches will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in Church of St John the Baptist, Seafield Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. This year's theme is '*Justice and only Justice you shall pursue*'.

**Rathgar Ladies Club** \*\*Change of Venue\*\* to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre. The New Year starts with a musical opening '*Times Past*', supported by Dublin City Council, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan at 8.00pm.