

## Words Matter

Michael Commane

Like or dislike them, the two men with the blonde hair, whether real or fake, are manna from heaven for the media. Donald Trump and Boris Johnson are all the media could ever have dreamt of. Is it because they are showmen, or maybe more sinister, that far-right politicians draw the crowds?

Whatever about their politics, their use of words has attracted much attention. Indeed, as a result of their public vocabulary, editorials have been written on the subject. Last week's issue of the English Catholic weekly *'The Tablet'* titled an editorial 'Words Have Always Hurt'.

We don't hear it too much these days but fadó fadó, parents and teachers would often say to children: "Sticks and stone can break my bones but names can never hurt me".

It seems the quote first appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> century advising children not to take the bait when they were being taunted.

Whatever about that advice, names can hurt and hurt deeply.

The words we use are important and words matter.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a heated debate before the unlawful attempt at proroguing the House of Commons called the British Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn, 'a great big girl's blouse'. US President Donald Trump uses language that is not fit for this page. At a whim he refers to people with whom he disagrees as 'losers'.

We hear and see it on television, radio and print media every day. Indeed, we have almost become accustomed to it. And there is an irony in that. Imagine if you or I used any of those terms in our place of work we would immediately be sanctioned. And rightly so.

It's also annoying to observe the coterie of people around Boris Johnson and Donald Trump. It's very few who break rank. It's interesting watching the behaviour of their sophisticated acolytes.

But maybe this is the time for all of us to take stock and ask ourselves how we use words. Certainly it is always an uplifting experience to be the recipient of friendly and affirming words.

Words can have an extraordinary positive influence on us, but unfortunately, they can also destroy and smother us.

It's not impressive to hear democratically elected leaders hurl insults and abuse at people.

Words can easily lead on to action, good and evil. Surely it's the kind and positive words we want to hear. Kind words heal and protect us.

**Parish Pastoral Council** The next meeting takes place this Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in 49 Rathgar Road.

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

Offertory Collection: € 1,333

Share Collection: € 986

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

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

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. 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.

**Sacristan for 6.15pm Mass** we urgently need a volunteer to prepare the Church and help at the Sunday evening 6.15pm Mass. Training will be given. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office at 01 4972215.

**Paul Abell: A Helping Hand** A three-day exhibition of architectural paintings and more will take place in Rathmines Library with opening reception on Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 6.00pm-7.30pm and then continuing to Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Oct during Library opening hours. All proceeds to Capuchin Daycare Centre and Mellon Educate.

**Flower Arranging Demonstration** Diane Gallagher will in Our Lady's Hospice Education and Research Centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8.00pm. All proceeds to Our Lady's Hospice.

**Newman Canonisation:** On Sunday 13 October Blessed John Henry Newman will be declared a Saint by Pope Francis. Blessed John Henry Newman was the founder of the first Catholic University in Ireland. The Diocesan Office for Catechetical Formation has produced a leaflet of Prayers and Reflections of John Henry Newman, which you can download from a special post on the Diocesan website.

<https://www.dublindiocese.ie/canonisation-of-blessed-john-henry-newman/>

**Rathgar Ladies Club** **\*\*Change of Venue\*\*** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. This month's feature is Sheila Flitton in her one-woman show 'Beezy – Memorising Live Theatre' on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm. All welcome

**Zion Parish Church** will host the Dublin Gospel Choir on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8.00pm. All proceeds in aid of Merrick House, Terenure. Tickets €20.00 available from [merrickhouse.ie/concert](http://merrickhouse.ie/concert).

**Dublin County Choir** will perform *Haydn's Creation in Whitefriar St Church, 56 Aungier St*, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 7.30pm. Suggested donation €20.00. (Tickets from choir members or at door) Concessions €15.00 at door.