

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Ní neart go cur le chéile

Michael Commane

Vodafone is running an advertisement, which includes: 'We're at our best when we're together.'

It set me thinking of the value of being together and working in harmony with one another. American writer and political activist, Helen Keller said: 'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much'.

Since mid-March the government has put great emphasis on how important it is that we all work together in 'flattening the curve'.

Talking to a friend at the weekend he reminded me of an Irish school debate fadó fadó. The debate was about the advantages of people working together. The proposer of the motion gave the example of how the strength of a rope is made up of all the individual strands, none of which is particularly strong - but together they make a rope. His punch line was 'Ní neart go cur le chéile'.

When we work in harmony we can achieve great results.

The killing of George Floyd in police custody, in Minneapolis on May 28 has had the effect of setting a tinder box on fire. People across the United States have come out in large numbers to demonstrate about the death of an African American.

'I can't breathe', 'Say his name', have reverberated around the world. People have been outraged at the murder of George Floyd.

It's vital that all people are cherished. Imagine if we all treated others as we ourselves wish to be treated.

Across the United States the majority of the demonstrations have been peaceful. Yes, there has been violence and looting. Such behaviour can never be tolerated. It was pathetic to watch looters leaving shops laden down with stolen merchandise.

But it was also pathetic and as scandalous to see US President Donald Trump standing in front of St John's Episcopal Church near the White House, holding up a Bible, while minutes earlier he was threatening to set 'thousands and thousands of troops' against his own people.

The Episcopal bishop of Washington, Mariann Budde told *The Washington Post*: "I don't want President Trump speaking for St John's. We so dissociate ourselves from the messages of this president."

Bishop Budde was outraged at Trump's behaviour

How must millions of alienated and frustrated Americans feel?

Blase Cupich, archbishop of Chicago said: 'We need to take up the hard work of healing the deep wound that has afflicted our people since the first slave ships docked on this continent. And we need to start today.'

Remember: 'We are at our best when we are together'. And that's a lesson for all of us.

## New Parish Webcam

As the Government and health authorities have mandated a 'stay at home' policy, Mass will be celebrated in Three Patrons via our new webcam on the website:

***rathgarparish.ie***.

The following is the schedule:

**Sunday 12 noon**

**Monday 11am**

**Wednesday 11am**

**Friday 11am**

**Saturday 11am**

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Mass on the **Beechwood Avenue webcam** is as follows:

**Sunday 10.00am**

**Tuesday 10.00am**

**Thursday 10.00am**

Our church will remain open on a daily basis for prayer and visitation, but will remain closed during Mass, and we also encourage everyone who visits the church to practice hand sanitisation and social distancing in order to protect each other's health.

### Planning for the re-opening of Three Patrons

As we look forward to the eventual re-opening of our church on 29<sup>th</sup> June, we are sending an appeal to those parishioners who would be willing to act as stewards or 'Sherpas', in assisting with the implementation of Government guidelines with regard to social distancing and public safety, during our Sunday Masses here at Three Patrons.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered, and if you feel you would also like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office by phone; 01 4972215, or email: [3patrons@eircom.net](mailto:3patrons@eircom.net), and leave your name, your phone number and your email address, and we will contact you in the coming weeks.

Thank you  
The Parish Pastoral Council

### An Appeal from Rathgar Society of St Vincent de Paul

During the current crisis, we are making every effort to continue to support those who need our assistance. There are envelopes at the back of the church, and you can leave your donation in the safe beside the Pieta shrine. *Thank You*

### Spiritual Communion

*Prayer of St Teresa of Avila when she could not take part in Mass because of her travels.*

My Jesus, really present in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, since I cannot now receive you under the Sacramental veil, I ask You, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul and abide with me forever. **Amen**