

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

Over the last 33 years meeting couples with new-born infants, and preparing and celebrating baptism has been a constant joy for me. I often say to the men: This is a great time to be a dad!" I love to see new dads heading off with the nappy bag in hand to change the baby; you often see dads pushing strollers or walking with a little child in a sling; and some Saturday mornings cafés can be packed with dads and their babies, probably showing off their beautiful child to their mates. Mums have always had a sort of priority in the care of infants but today's dads can and do play a huge part in their parenting. I have also come to see that many, many men don't become dads until they are in their 30's and quite often two or three children are the extent to their parenting experience. My own dad became a father when he was 23, pretty normal 70 years ago and over the following 18 years he enjoyed the arrival of 6 more children. My three brothers became dads later in their twenties and loved being young dads; one often comments that by the time he was 50 the three kids were independent and had flown the nest. One of his boys is almost 40, doing really well in his career, and has a lovely partner, but not a notion that I can see, of being a dad. So I guess it's something that we need to be aware of and sensitive too. The 20's it seems, are no longer a time for making babies; other aspects of life and development are attended to during that decade. As our young dads become older maybe it will also affect the way that they parent, hopefully for the good. On this Fathers' Day weekend we pray God's blessing on dads of every age.

### New Envelope System for Collections at Sunday Masses

We have had a wonderful response to the Parish Finance Committee's initiative regarding the new envelope system for collections at Sunday Masses. Over 120 people have signed up to receive boxes of envelopes in order to participate in this scheme. Thank you all very much! Most who have signed up have now received their envelopes, either at mass last Sunday or in the post since then. If you have yet to receive your envelopes, please drop in to Cepta in the Parish Office (room at back left of church) between 10am and 1pm today or contact the Office by email or telephone. **Please start using the envelopes for the collections at Sunday Mass from today.** Remember, you just need to use one envelope for both collections – you can either note the amount for each collection on the envelope or, if you leave it blank, your donation in the envelope will be equally split between the two collections. If anyone else wants to sign up for this scheme, please fill out the form (on the tables at the back of the church) and pop it in the safe at the back of the church or hand it in to the Parish Office. Thank you.

The Parish Finance Committee

### Collections 9th June 2019

Offertory Collection: 1,408

Share Collection: 831

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

**Our Lady's Hospice Harold's Cross** will be collecting after all Masses today, and your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

**The Sunshine Fund** would like to thank most sincerely your generous contribution of €1,610 on Palm Sunday. They rely heavily on the funds generated through this collection and your support is always appreciated.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes** will take place this year from 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September. If you wish to become an Associate Member of the Pilgrimage, see the notices at the back of the Church, or talk to Marie and Mary in the Church on Sundays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June when they will be organising the Annual Collection.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning after 10.00am Mass. 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.

**Rathgar Ladies' Club** Summer Party takes place on Thursday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm in Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre.

**Rathgar Active Retirement Association** is a friendly and welcoming group of active retired people. We meet every Tuesday and Friday at 2.30pm for: table tennis; scrabble; cards; and indoor bowls. Outings to the theatre and other interesting venues; and twice-yearly holidays, are also on our agenda. For further information, contact Phyllis at 01 4909167.

**Knockadoon Music and Liturgy Course** The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Course is now open for booking. It is a wonderful place for choirs and young people to experience a week of music, faith and community from the 11-17 August 2019. More info available on our Facebook, Instagram & Twitter @KnockadoonML or our website [www.knockadoonml.com](http://www.knockadoonml.com).

**The Irish Cancer Society** is looking for volunteer drivers who will drive patients to and from their chemotherapy appointments in St James's and Tallagh Hospitals. Volunteers are required in Dublin 6, 8, 10, 12, 22, and 24 areas. If you can help, please contact Gail at [gflinter@irishcancer.ie](mailto:gflinter@irishcancer.ie), or call 01 2310 566.

**St Joseph's Young Priests' Society** Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019. Please see notice at the back of the Church for further details, or contact Gerry Quinn by phone at 087 8172728 or [gerrycello@eircom.net](mailto:gerrycello@eircom.net)