

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

I was talking to my brother during the Christmas Holidays last year. He, with some of the visiting family, had headed out to 10.00am Mass on Christmas morning. He was very disappointed, maybe even a bit mad, that the car park was empty, there was no Mass at 10.00am. "Nobody told me the times had been changed", he fumed. Needless to say he hadn't been to Mass during Advent, and not very often during the year, nor does he contribute to the Parish Fund, or pay Dues. He is a loyal once- or twice-a-year parishioner. He has expectations, based on his past participation, but no current relationship with the local church. During the past week we discussed the plan for our Christmas Masses, and we know there will be changes, but we don't want to disappoint too many people. We reflected at the Parish Council meeting as to how many Masses will be best for those who may gather to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the World. The suggested schedule is 7.00pm on Christmas Eve and 9.00am, 10.30am, and 12.00 noon on Christmas Day with 11.00am Mass on St Stephens Day. These times will be published in this newsletter; put up on the website; and included on the Christmas Card. But there might be some of your neighbours and friends, like my brother, who will need someone to bring these changes to their attention.

Our November Lectures will take place in St Patrick's Hall at 7pm on the following evenings:

Thursday 22nd Nov Fr Fergus O'Donoghue, SJ will deliver his lecture on *The History of the Church as a Sign of Hope*.

Thursday 29th Nov Fr Brendan Staunton, SJ will speak on *Caravaggio's 'Taking of Christ': 25th anniversary of the unveiling in our National Gallery*.

The November Altar List of the Dead is one of the many ways in which we remember our deceased relatives and friends, and join our intentions in the Masses the priests offer for the repose of their souls. Please feel welcome to complete a list of your own and drop it in one of the special envelopes into the safe anytime during this month.

Concert for Kyuso

The 12th annual concert in aid of our partner parish in Kyuso will take place in Three Patrons on Fri 30th Nov at 8.00pm. Brian Kennedy will perform this year, and tickets at €35 will be available after all Sunday Masses; from O'Connell's Pharmacy Rathgar, and Roche's Pharmacy Upr Rathmines Rd;

Collections 1st and 11th November 2018

Offertory Collection: €1,931

WMOF Collection: €1,413

Thank you for your support for these collections, particularly for the World Meeting of Families collection, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month.

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.

Christmas Night of Musical Delight St Peter's Special School, Rathgar will hold a special fundraising *Christmas Night of Musical Delight* on Saturday 24th November 2018 at 7pm in St Anne's Church, Dawson Street. Tickets: €10.00 from Kay at 086 1671092; or Carol at 087 1504819. See poster at the back of the Church for details of performers.

Mitzvah Day takes place today Sunday 18th November. It is the annual day of faith-based social action that takes place in November each year. On Mitzvah Day community groups and individuals undertake a range of volunteer projects for those in need in their local community. This year, the Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship Group is supporting the Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation as they work to support families in direct provision in Ireland. We have a table for donations in the side aisle, and your generosity is much appreciated.

St Joseph's Young Priests Society Mass of Thanksgiving for the gift of Priesthood takes place Sun 25th Nov at 3.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Westland Row. All are welcome to attend, and refreshments will be served after Mass.

Peter McVerry Trust The 10th annual Christmas Carol Concert will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7.30pm on Saturday December 8th. Mary Black; the SpeakUp SingOut Youth Choir; and the Dublin Male Voice choir will all perform, and MC will be Pat Kenny. Tickets €35 at 01 8230776.

The Bethany Bereavement Group meeting will be held in The Milltown Parish Centre on the 21st Nov 2018 at 8.00pm.

Rathgar Ladies Club ****Change of Venue**** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. The next event will be a talk on *'The History of the Pearse Sisters'* by Marie Louise O'Donnell and a Harp Recital by Teresa.

Loyola Lecture. You are invited to the next Loyola Lecture when Dr. Ann Buckley will address the fascinating theme - *'Singing and Prayer in the Middle Ages'* on Wed 28th November at 7.30pm, in Trinity College, Room G16, ISE-LI Building.