

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

There has been a lot of talk during the week in different media about the whole question of taking sacramental preparation out of schools. A survey in the Dublin Diocese indicated that a lot of schools favour change; and also that parishes are struggling to understand the high level of participation in the special sacramental days, when there seems to be very little continued contact with Mass and parish life. Many parents indicated that they are happy enough with the situation as it is.

I have been involved with four First Communions this month, and I just have to admire the teachers and school staff who have worked very hard to make the whole experience very positive for all concerned. Great work was done with the children in the classroom, with the school choirs, the musicians, and with art; various teachers, the school principals and the secretaries all gave generously of their time too. It seems to me that schools excel in drawing together the academic, the practical, the spiritual, the needs of individual children, and the hopes of parents, and they alleviate the pressure on parents and priests. So maybe there is a case for taking the sacramental preparation out of schools, but whatever the gain may be there is also a lot that can be lost. There are already parishioners offering invaluable assistance, parents playing their role in the preparatory Masses, and parish staff ensuring that the church is available for practices, and well presented for the celebrations. When change comes I hope we don't lose too much of the work of the unsung heroes. I like the sacraments being supported by the school; I appreciate the involvement of parents and others, and I always hope that children will grow in faith and be a part of the active faith community drawing closer to our Lord.

Update on the building works.

The Parish Finance Committee has now received tenders from six contractors. The contract has been awarded to the company with the lowest tender and building works will begin by the end of the month. For the coming six months, we have to expect some disruption to the ordinary life of the parish as the construction works are ongoing. For the duration of the works St Patrick's Hall, St Brigid's Room, the Parish Offices, the Flower room and the toilets will all be unavailable. The Parish Office will move to St Columba's room at No 49 Rathgar Road. Apologies for any inconvenience caused and many thanks for your co-operation.

New Envelope System for Collections at Weekend Masses from June 2019

Please see the leaflet included with this newsletter for further details of the new initiative

Collections 12th May 2019

Offertory Collection: 1,839
Share Collection: 799

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

First Holy Communion will be celebrated today Sunday 19th May at the 10.30am Family Mass. Please remember all our children and their families in your prayers

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.

Lough Derg St Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage 2019 will take place on three Fridays: 31st May; 5th July; and 9th August. See poster at the back of the Church for details, or phone Miriam at: 01 4941171.

Rathgar Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to Dublin 6 and 14. If you can help, please contact Suzanne at 086 3611524 or email: 1965annesley@gmail.com.

Diocesan Priesthood: Is God calling you to be a Diocesan Priest? The National Vocations Office is running an overnight 'Come and See' discernment retreat for men (18 years and over) who would like to explore the life of a diocesan priest. Further information from Deacon Eric Cooney at eric.cooney@vocations.ie

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, Harold's Cross, is asking for volunteers to help with fundraising on Sunflower Days, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June 2019. If you can help, please contact Mary Brien or Ann Julian on 01 4911072 or mbrien@olh.ie

Dublin Male Voice Choir Summer Concert will be held in St Ann's Church, Dawson St next Wednesday 22nd May 2019 at 8.00pm, with Special Guests *Sing and Tonics*, the female A Capella Group.

Ministry Sunday Collection This new collection will replace the Share collection today Sunday 19th May, and will be devoted to supporting the building up of new forms of lay ministry in our parishes. The work of spreading the Gospel of Jesus in our changing religious culture will require more lay men and women working in various ways alongside our priests at the heart of parish communities. This collection is about ensuring that we will have the people we need – men and women who will be to the fore in making our parishes vibrant faith communities into the future.