



*The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.*

Luke 10:2

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**RATHGAR LADIES CLUB**  
**RE-OPENING ON THURSDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY 24TH AT 7.30PM.**

**In the St Patricks Hall (behind the Church of the Three Patrons)**  
**We will have a Musical Opening and look forward to seeing all our members and welcoming new members.**

First Collection is for support of the priests serving and retired in the diocese. Second collection is "central support services for parishes and to provide financial assistance to low income parishes.

We need volunteers at 10am and 12.15pm to help with the collection bags for the 1st and 2nd collections.

**Synod 2022** - Pope Francis has invited all Catholic Parishes throughout the world to engage The Synodal Pathway. Rathmines & Rathgar Parishes are hosting two 'Synodal Pathway' meetings in Rathmines Parish Centre on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of March and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 4pm to 5.30pm. The word 'synodal' means journeying together and these gatherings will be an opportunity to share and listen to each other's experience of Church, in an organised, gentle and prayerful environment. All are most welcome to attend.

#### **Lent 2022 - Adult Faith Classes -**

Rathmines Parish is hosting a weekly adult faith formation evening for Lent 2022 from the **3<sup>rd</sup> of March to 7<sup>th</sup> of April every Thursday evening from 7.30pm – 9pm in Rathmines Parish Centre.** The programme will be based on the popular documentary series 'Catholicism' and will be followed by tea's/coffees. You do not have to attend the previous class to attend any evening. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** Please contact [secretary@rathminesparish.com](mailto:secretary@rathminesparish.com) to register your interest. More information can be found at [www.rathminesparish.ie](http://www.rathminesparish.ie)

## HOMILY

This weekend St Luke continues his revelation of the core of Christian morality begun last week with the Beatitudes and it is indeed a demanding vision. Love those who hate you. Do good things for those who harm you. Take no revenge for harm done to you. Give more than you are asked to give and expect nothing in return, even if you have a right to that return. Most simply put, for those who would be followers of Christ, to treat other people based on how others have treated them is not nearly good enough. That, after all, is the stuff of contracts of a business deal; what I give is measured by what I get or can reasonably expect to get in return.

Christ proposes for us the model not of a contract but of a covenant. A relationship in which what I bring, what I give, what I do, is not at all measured against what I get but is rather measured simply enough against all that I am capable of doing, and that whether or not I ever get anything in return at all.

Before David became king, he was a servant and a great favourite in the court of King Saul. But Saul was a weak and suspicious man, and David fell from favour very quickly. David was accused of plotting to overthrow the king and, with a few companions, was forced to run for his life, with Saul and his army close after him.

So, the reading pictures David coming into Saul's camp while the king and his soldiers were asleep and stealing up to Saul's bed standing sword in hand over the sleeping figure of the man who had so badly misused him. It all could have been over very quickly.

But it wasn't because in his heart David knew that nothing he had suffered, no injustice done to him, could possibly justify killing someone so holy to the Lord as was the king. In that we find our model.

David treated Saul more kindly than he might reasonably have done, because Saul was holy to the Lord. Rather than kill him, David disarmed him, drained that situation of danger, of bitterness, of rivalry.

So must we. We too must disarm one another with an unreasonable kindness. For David, who had heard the voice of the prophet, it was clear that Saul, no matter how he seemed, was holy to the Lord.

For us, who have heard the Beatitudes, it is clear that everyone, no matter how they seem, is holy to the Lord.

I am called to treat absolutely everyone I meet better than they may seem to deserve, because absolutely everyone I meet is infinitely more sacred to the Lord than they may seem to be. For a Christian, morality is first a matter not of what we do but of what we are.

Fr Andrew.

**The parish Child Safeguarding and Protection representatives may be contacted through the parish office.**