

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

On Christmas morning, during the 10.30 Family Mass, Purvis Campbell, the recently-installed minister from Christ Church, Rathgar, our Presbyterian neighbours, dropped in to offer greetings and blessings to the community here. He stood in the sanctuary, visibly moved to be in a Catholic Church, and feeling so warmly welcomed. When he spoke, he said it made the hairs of his neck stand up, and sent a shiver of joy down his spine to have this experience. Growing up in Northern Ireland, as a Presbyterian, he couldn't have imagined in his wildest dreams, bridging the divide or crossing the gulf, between his church and ours in this way. He and I embraced, and the congregation applauded; he slipped away with joy in his heart and a deeply-felt appreciation for the good ecumenical relations between the local faith communities here in Rathgar. The Fellowship Group brings the clergy from all the local churches and the Progressive Synagogue together for shared conversation, and for the planning of events. This weekend falls in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the group is delighted that the host community on this Sunday is the Society of Friends, Quakers, at the Churchtown Meeting Room. Please see the more detailed notice and come along if you can. At the end of the Christmas Mass, many, many people said to me how nice it was to have 'Fergus' with us, mistaking his name. I laughed, because in Northern Ireland you won't meet too many ministers with an Irish sounding name. So thanks Purvis for coming to visit.

Update on the Building Works

The Chair of the Parish Finance Committee was informed during the week that we have been granted permission to undertake the works at the church. You will recall the main positive benefits to the parish that we will achieve when these works are complete: Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certification; the provision of suitable office space for our current staff members; new toilets; and the total refurbishment of St. Patrick's Hall. The costs of the project are coming from the sale of No.50 Rathgar Road. When the actual building of the project is ready to begin, we will communicate the different ways that the works may impact on parish services.

Volunteers:

The parish has wonderful volunteers who are talented, generous with their time, and invaluable to the life and ministries of the church. At the moment a couple of areas are very urgently in need of support from volunteers: Each day we need someone to close up the Church, which means to lock the doors, turn out the lights, and check that the alarm is on. Sunday 6.15pm Mass needs a few people to volunteer as sacristans and collectors. Until recently we had a wonderful man who came each week and supported that Mass, but he has now retired. The Baptism Team and Funeral Ministry also need some new volunteers. If you are interested please contact Caroline, our Parish Administrator, at 3patrons@eircom.net or 01-4972215.

Collections 13th January 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,591
Share Collection: €748

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

We are delighted to welcome our Cantor, **Aisling Lakes** back to our 12 noon Mass today, and we wish her continued recovery to good health.

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.

Gianna Care provides compassionate, life-affirming and confidential care during pregnancy. If you would like further information, please see notices at back of church or call 086 0293727.

Save the Date: World Day of the Sick 2019 will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic '*Community Struggle with Addiction - A Pastoral Response*'. More details closer to the time.

St. Louis Infant and Primary Schools will be hosting an Open Morning today 20th January from 10.30am to 12.00 noon for parents and children who would like to apply for Sept 2019. Applications for boys and girls for September 2019 will be accepted up to **2.30pm on Friday, January 25th 2019**. Further information from Barbara on 4972188, or www.stlouis.ie.

Christian Unity Week, 18-25 Jan 2019. The Rathgar/Terenure Fellowship invites you to the inaugural meeting of Prayer for Christian Unity Week at the Quaker Meeting House, 82 Lr Churchtown Road on Sunday 20th January at 3.00pm, when the speaker will be Rev Brian McKay, OC.

World Youth Day 'Panama in Dublin' 2019: As Pope Francis travels to Panama to meet thousands of young people from all over the world, why not join us at the Emmaus Centre, Swords, on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th January, when we will celebrate this global festival of faith? The Pope's talks and homilies will be live from Panama City, with music, workshops, drama, food, fun & fellowship. (Bring your sleeping bags!) €15 per person (including: evening meal, breakfast, lunch, tea + coffee). Please see notice at the back of the Church or to book visit: www.emmauscentre.ie/programme/wyd