

## A foldup bicycle, manners, and Aristotle

Michael Commane

It was raining and I was tired so decided to fold up the bicycle and take the bus home.

I've been taking the foldup on the bus for five years and never any trouble.

A14 pulls into the stop. I have the bike under my arm when I hear the driver say that bikes are for cycling, which they are. But I feel a tone in his voice that he does not want my bicycle on his bus. He says that it is not permitted to take a bike on a bus. I continue to place it in the rack inside the door. I gently and politely say to him that this is the first time anyone has ever said that to me. He allows me leave it there but goes on to say that Dublin Bus does not allow bicycles on buses. I point out that it's a foldup and fits in the luggage area.

The bus arrives at my stop, I take the bike off the luggage rack, say thank you and get off the bus.

That hadn't been a pleasant experience.

On arriving home, I phone Donnybrook garage. The 14s operate out of Donnybrook.

I tell my story to an inspector. He could not have been nicer. I ask him if Dublin Bus permits foldup bicycles. Yes, they do, provided there is room. I then explain that I don't want the driver to be disciplined for his behaviour and we both agree it's the season of good will and end of story.

The inspector was friendly, kind and indeed, funny.

The next morning, I phone the depot again. This time to thank Dublin Bus for the reception I had received the previous evening.

He tells me that all drivers receive instruction in customer care and then quips: "But you know, you can't teach people manners".

Brilliant and what philosophy. But can you teach a person manners? Interesting question. The Greek philosopher Aristotle said that knowledge does little or nothing for virtue.

What wisdom, and all because a grumpy or smart-aleck bus driver was unpleasant to me.

I have to stress I have the highest praise for Dublin Bus drivers.

A great group of people, who do an excellent job under difficult conditions.

Isn't it interesting the little gems we pick up every day and so often they can go unnoticed?

Happy and holy Christmas to all and be careful on the roads.

Tóg go bog é.

**Christmas Dues envelopes** are available from the tables in the entrance area for those who did not receive any in the post. Dues are for the support of the priests of the parish and the sick and retired priests of the diocese. As some of the retired priests are now being cared for in nursing homes it is really helpful if everyone could make some contribution to the Dues. Your priests, past and present are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

## Collections 8th December 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,260  
St Vincent de Paul Collection: €6,062

## Collections 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,581  
Share Collection: €1,039

We wish to express our sympathy to the family and friends of **John Lamb**, whose funeral took place on Wednesday. He was a wonderful musician and was a pillar of strength to his siblings in their younger days.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. 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.

**The Parish Office** will be closed from Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec to Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. If you have any urgent queries, please contact Fr Paul at 01 4972215

**Pianist at 6.15pm Evening Mass** We urgently require a pianist for the Sunday evening Mass. This will be a temporary position, and if you can help, please contact our Pastoral Worker, Jackie Hearne at 087 7422653. *Thank you.*

**Christmas Card** a misprint appears in the Christmas Card: Masses will be at the usual time of 10.30am; 12 noon, and 6.15pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**World Day of Peace 2020** will be celebrated in the Diocese at a special Mass in the Church of St. Therése, Mount Merrion, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 11:00am. The theme chosen by Pope Francis this year is *Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion*. All welcome.

**Children's Programme for Advent.** As St Patrick's Hall is still not available, the children will go to the Sacristy as usual during Mass for a short lesson and some prayer time followed by Arts and Crafts. The capacity of the Sacristy means we may have to restrict the programme to children under 6 years of age, and if any older children are excluded, the craft will be available after Mass.

**Poinsettias and Red Plants** to decorate the Church for Christmas will be most welcome. Please leave your gift outside the Mortuary Chapel.

*May the  
Miracle of  
Christmas  
fill your heart  
with joy*