

## Use the mirror, not the binoculars

Michael Commane

There is a Norwegian saying that goes: 'If you are looking for a fault, look in the mirror rather than reach for a pair of binoculars'. Good advice.

It's so easy to see fault in others and see ourselves in a completely different light.

I was reminded of that on Wednesday, listening to the woman who spoke at the 07.30 Mass.

No matter how much we are reminded, it's easy to slip back into our old ways. At least, so is the case with me.

There was a Gospel reading last week where Jesus is astonished with the faith of someone.

Isn't it a gift, real magic, to be astonished and impressed with other people. And besides that, it does us good too.

This story is a witness to the kindness of people. We have every reason to allow ourselves be astonished by the goodness of people.

In mid-August I set out on my Honda Deauville, heading for West Kerry. It's a fine morning and I'm as excited as a child about the journey ahead.

South of Roscrea I join the motorway. Two or three kilometres on the road I notice power is going from the machine. The more throttle I give it the slower it goes. No alternative but to move over to the hard shoulder.

I know nothing about motorbikes. It's a relief to know that I am in the AA and have my card in my pocket.

Within less than five minutes a truck pulls over. I walk up to the cab and the driver asks me if I'm okay. He also drives motorbikes and knows about them. I tell him my story.

Guess what he does? He spends about 10 to 15 minutes rearranging the cargo in the truck. It requires a lot of ingenuity and work to find space for the bike. Down comes the ramp. He places the bike on it, I'm holding it and up we go. First time on such a ramp which means I'm scared as he raises it.

He phones a bike shop near Limerick, where he gets his bike repaired, telling them we'd be calling later. We spend close to 45 minutes getting there. Naturally we tell our stories.

He had lost a child to meningitis and as a result of that he helped found an organisation whereby motorcyclists bring blood to hospitals in emergencies.

Later in the day at Limerick Bus Station I tell my story to a bus inspector. He replies: 'Truck drivers never leave people stuck on the road. They are known for their acts of kindness.'

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

Offertory Collection: € 1,386

Share Collection: € 1,068

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

**Pax Christi** Annual outdoor collection takes place today. Pax Christi, the Irish section of the International Catholic Peace Movement is based in the church grounds in Rathmines. It was born out of the ashes of World War II for the promotion of peace and justice in our broken world witnessing the peace of Christ. Your generosity is most appreciated

**St Vincent de Paul** Annual Clothing appeal takes place today the 22nd September 2018. Thank you for your continuing generosity with this appeal.

**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.

**Rathgar Ladies Club** **\*\*Change of Venue\*\*** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. This month's talk will be '*Food, Fuel, and Making-do*' presented by Maeve Casserly, Historian-in-Residence at Dublin City Council, on Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm. New members always welcome.

**Rathgar Active Retirement Association** is a friendly and welcoming group of active retired people. We meet every Tuesday and Friday at 2.30pm for: table tennis; scrabble; cards; and indoor bowls. Outings to the theatre and other interesting venues; and twice-yearly holidays, are also on our agenda. For further information, contact Phyllis at 01 4909167.

### Safeguarding Sunday today 22nd September.

In his diocesan letter, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin says "I wish to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that has been done in our parishes to make the Church a safer place for children and vulnerable adults. Our parish clergy, already under pressure due to declining numbers, have had to accept additional responsibilities in this area, such as ensuring that those involved in public ministry are vetted. I wish to thank them all for this. I wish to thank also the hundreds of parish safeguarding representatives and the thousands who have attended safeguarding training. I wish to thank all of our parishioners who have kept faith with us through this difficult time. I do not underestimate the dilemma of parents who want their children to grow strong in the faith but hesitate about allowing their children to become involved in parish activities. I say to you: your children are dear to us, as they are to you, and we will do all in our power to ensure their safety and protection from abuse. "