

Tóg go bog é ar na bóithre

Michael Commane

Last Sunday was World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims. In this church we prayed for those who have lost their lives or been injured in road accidents. We also prayed for their families and friends.

Since 1959, when records began, 24,390 people have been killed on Irish roads.

According to Road Safety Authority figures over 80,000 people have been seriously injured on Irish roads since the recording of serious injuries began in 1977. And so far this year 125 people have been killed on our roads.

Maybe accident is not the correct word to use for the killings and maiming on our roads. Much of it is willful bad behaviour.

Last Thursday week I was cycling along Orwell Park heading for the rear entrance to St Luke's Hospital. It was before 9am and the traffic was bumper-to-bumper. I was cycling between the footpath and the slowly-moving traffic. It was raining. I suddenly noticed a car veering towards me. It meant I had to jump up on the footpath. I looked in the window of the car to see the driver using a mobile phone.

My subsequent reaction was immediate and stern, indeed, so stern that the driver threw the phone on the seat of the car. May they have learned a profound lesson never to use a hand-held phone while driving.

Last Tuesday I was cycling through the junction of Rathgar Road and Highfield Road. I was on the main road but a car, coming from Terenure, simply sailed across the junction on to Highfield Road and came close to knocking me off the bicycle. Not even an apology.

At this stage we have all seen the RSA television ad about giving cyclists plenty of space when cars and trucks are overtaking.

But never a word of how important it is for cyclists to give plenty of room to their fellow 'pedallers' when they are overtaking them.

Yes, we are all sadly aware of the car and truck speedsters. But what about the cyclists, who treat the roads like racing tracks? They really are annoying and boring too.

Our road manners leave much to be desired. And the bad manners are not the prerogative of the men.

Is there any point in praying for those who have died on our roads if we constantly and flagrantly misbehave when driving and cycling?

And pedestrians too need to stop walking out in front of vehicles. Be kind and gentle on the road.

Collections 17th November 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,320
Share Collection: €865

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

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.

Children's Programme for Advent. Advent begins next Sunday 1st December, and as usual we hope to deliver our Advent Programme for Children. The children will go to St Patrick's Hall during Mass for a short lesson and some prayer time followed by Arts and Crafts. As you know, there has been ongoing building work in the Church, and particularly in St Patrick's Hall. If the new hall is available to us in time for Advent we will be delighted; however in the event that it is not, we will use the Sacristy. The capacity of the Sacristy means we would have to restrict the programme to children under 6 years of age, but we will keep you up-to-date on any change.

IT Skills Course a free one-to-one computer skills course will take place in Griffith College, South Circular Road, beginning on Tuesday, the 12th of November from 6-8pm for 5 weeks. Choose your own learning topic and learn at your own pace with your individual volunteer student tutor. To book your place, call Orlaith on 01-4150421.

Handel's Messiah will take place on Sunday 24th November at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Phibsborough, Dublin 7, performed by the Guinness Choir and Orchestra. For more information phone the parish office on: 01 8389708 - Tickets cost €20 at Eventbrite - www.eventbrite.ie

GROW Community Mental Health Movement meets every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Carmelite Community Centre, 56 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. Free of charge. All welcome. Contact John 086 8033126.

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.

Kyuso Concert

The annual concert in aid of our partner parish in Kyuso, Kenya, will take place on

Next Friday, November 29th at 8.00pm

in the Church.

This year it will be The Eurovision Show, starring Johnny Logan.

Tickets at €35 will be on sale after all Masses. They will also be available from our usual outlets and at

rathgarconcert@gmail.com