

The Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar

Parish Newsletter

25th April 2021

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Parish Administrator: Caroline Nolan
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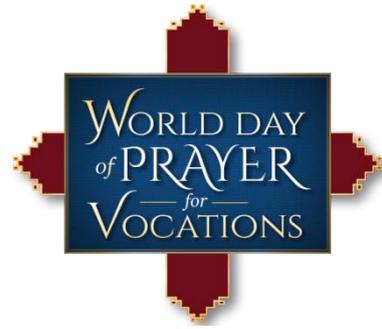
Please phone or email the parish office with your query.

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The Diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy is published on all notice boards in the Church and the Parish Centre, and copies of the document are available to read in the Parish Office and the Parish Centre. For further information please see www.csp.s.dublindiocese.ie

Excerpt from the message of Pope Francis for World Vocations Day 25th April 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

8 December last, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, marked the beginning of a special year devoted to him (cf. Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, 8 December 2020). For my part, I wrote the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, whose aim was “to increase our love for this great saint”.

Saint Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one “so close to our own human experience”. He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God.

Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual’s vocation. The first is dream. Everyone dreams of finding fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty aspirations that ephemeral goals – like success, money and entertainment – cannot satisfy. If we were to ask people to express in one word their life’s dream, it would not be difficult to imagine the answer: “to be loved”.

It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life’s mystery. Indeed, we only have life if we give it; we truly possess it only if we generously give it away. Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard, because, through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift.

For Saint Joseph, service – as a concrete expression of the gift of self – did not remain simply a high ideal, but became a rule for daily life. He strove to find and prepare a place where Jesus could be born; he did his utmost to protect him from Herod’s wrath by arranging a hasty journey into Egypt; he immediately returned to Jerusalem when Jesus was lost; he supported his family by his work, even in a foreign land.

In short, he adapted to different circumstances with the attitude of those who do not grow discouraged when life does not turn out as they wished; he showed the willingness typical of those who live to serve. In this way, Joseph welcomed life’s frequent and often unexpected journeys: from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, then to Egypt and again to Nazareth, and every year to Jerusalem.

Each time he was willing to face new circumstances without complaining, ever ready to give a hand to help resolve situations. We could say that this was the outstretched hand of our heavenly Father reaching out to his Son on earth. Joseph cannot fail to be a model for all vocations, called to be the ever-active hands of the Father, outstretched to his children.

(Full text available on vatican.va)

From the Pastor's Desk.....

A few years ago, Pope Francis spoke about a culture of comfort and complacency which makes us insensitive to others. It makes us 'live in soap bubbles which however lovely, are insubstantial (July 8th 2013).

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we highlight the good news of Christ which calls us out of the walled enclosure of complacency. The structure of the Christian life is vocation (call) and response.

Nowadays, we hear very little about 'vocation'. We think of ourselves as 'self-propelled' beings. We choose what we want from the smorgasbord of life. Some are paralysed by the range of choices on offer. Others are fearful of committing to anything. How many of us ever say 'What is God calling me to be and to do.?

The call of God does not come in a mighty roar but in something more like a gentle soft breeze. To detect it requires sensitivity, calm and attention. So we should create a little oasis of space and time in our daily lives where we just sit with the Lord and listen. As you sit and breathe in, say 'Thank you for all that is good. As you breathe out say 'I place my trust in You'.

Everyone has a vocation but discerning it is the challenge. As St. Teresa said 'Christ has no other hands not but yours'.

At the moment in the Dublin Diocese we have just one man studying to be ordained as a priest. The formation programme usually takes 6 years. Like so many other forms of life – including the corncrake in Ireland – priests are an endangered species! The particular vocation to religious life or priesthood can only flourish if the hard crust of complacency and indifference is broken up, and a wider and deeper awareness surfaces that being a baptised Christian is a vocation.

Let us see vocation as a vast and broad river, rich in channels of diversity of all kinds, yet flowing in the one direction, co-operating with the gift of God.

Regina Coeli

(replaces the *Angelus* from Holy Saturday to Pentecost)

Queen of Heaven, rejoice. *Alleluia.*
For He, whom thou was worthy to bear. *Alleluia.*
Has risen as He promised. *Alleluia.*
Pray for us to God. *Alleluia.*
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. *Alleluia.*
Because the Lord is truly risen, *Alleluia.*

Let us pray

O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life
Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

Collections on 18th April 2021

First Collection €335
Second Collection €150

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month. If you would like to contribute during the current lockdown, please use the envelopes at the back of the church, the **DONATE** button at rathgarparish.ie, or the new 'Tap and Pay' facility at the back of the church. *Thank you*

**We extend our sincere sympathy
to the family and friends of
Marie Kearns
whose funeral took place in
Three Patrons this week.
May she rest in peace**



Covid-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manages a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. There are Professional staff available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, **8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.**

Trocaire Boxes

We did not have our usual collection of Trócaire boxes on Good Friday, so if you could drop your boxes into the safe at the back of the church, we will arrange to have them delivered to Trócaire.



Here is a message from Fr James of Trócaire:

*With your support, a new day will come for South Sudan. Thank you for not leaving South Sudan alone this Lent. Thank you for not forgetting the people of South Sudan. Thank you for keeping South Sudan, and families like Awut's and Ajak's in your hearts this Lent. Wishing you God's blessings,
Fr James*

Diocesan Vacancy – Finance Secretary/Bookeeper

St Agnes's Church, Crumlin has a vacancy for a Finance Secretary/Bookeeper (part-time; two days per week) The commencement date for the role is 6th July with closing date for return of applications 23rd April. Please email Fr Tony O'Shaughnessy at info@crumlinparish.ie

Easter Garden

Please visit, and bring your children to see our Easter garden. It is situated on the left-hand aisle, and it is a beautifully quiet place for reflection during these difficult times.

