

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

I was making plans to meet with a French friend next Thursday. "Oh but won't you be busy with Masses?" asked the friend, "isn't it Ascension Thursday?" Well the answer is yes and no! It is Ascension Thursday in France, but not in Ireland. For some reason, the Bishops' Conference decided a while back to move both Ascension and Corpus Christi from Thursday to the following Sunday. I think the reason was to assist the whole Christian Community to celebrate together as part of their Sunday worship. It seems to me that in France and many other European countries, albeit that they are very secular, the religious calendar still informs their holidays and breaks from work. Here in Ireland those who come to Mass are of course aware of the Feast, but for those who don't, Ascension might be lost from public consciousness. We are all so aware of the birth of our Lord, Christmas is universally marked, but without an awareness of Ascension we might not fully appreciate His return to the Father and the completion of his time among us. We are an Easter people, longing for His second coming and determined to share the Good News as we live out our faith in the Risen Lord. Perhaps we can all mark the Ascension on Thursday and then celebrate it together next weekend.

PRAYER BEFORE AN EXAMINATION

Dear Lord, as I take this exam, I thank you that my value is not based on my performance, but on your great love for me. Come into my heart so that we can walk through this time together.

Help me, not only with this test, but the many tests of life that are sure to come my way. As I take this exam, bring back to my mind everything I studied and be gracious with what I have overlooked.

Help me to remain focused and calm, confident in the facts and in my ability, and firm in the knowledge that no matter what happens today you are there with me. Amen

Update on the building works.

The Parish Finance Committee has now received tenders from six contractors. The contract has been awarded to the company with the lowest tender and building works will begin by the end of the month. For the coming six months, we have to expect some disruption to the ordinary life of the parish as the construction works are ongoing. For the duration of the works St Patrick's Hall, St Brigid's Room, the Parish Offices, the Flower room and the toilets will all be unavailable. The Parish Office will move to St Columba's room at No 49 Rathgar Road. Apologies for any inconvenience caused and many thanks for your co-operation.

Collections 19th May 2019

Offertory Collection: 1,410
Ministry Sunday Collection: 1,465

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

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.

Lough Derg St Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage 2019 will take place on three Fridays: 31st May; 5th July; and 9th August. See poster at the back of the Church for details, or phone Miriam at: 01 4941171.

Rathgar Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to Dublin 6 and 14. If you can help, please contact Suzanne at 086 3611524 or email: 1965annesley@gmail.com.

Diocesan Priesthood: Is God calling you to be a Diocesan Priest? The National Vocations Office is running an overnight 'Come and See' discernment retreat for men (18 years and over) who would like to explore the life of a diocesan priest. Further information from Deacon Eric Cooney at eric.cooney@vocations.ie

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, Harold's Cross, is asking for volunteers to help with fundraising on Sunflower Days, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June 2019. If you can help, please contact Mary Brien or Ann Julian on 01 4911072 or mbrien@olh.ie

MS Ireland will hold a fundraising Coffee Morning and Cake Sale in MS Care Centre, 65 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar on Thurs 30th May at 10.00am. There will be a Raffle, Plant and Art, Books and DVD's, Tombola etc.

GROW The Community Mental Health Movement, promoting positive mental health, meets every Thursday at 6.30pm in the Carmelite Community Centre, 56 Aungier Street, Dublin 2. All welcome Contact John 086 8033126 .

Friends' Meeting House Rev. Leo Lefebure SJ, a visiting American theologian based in Georgetown University, Washington DC, will give a talk on '*Inter-Religious Understanding and Biblical Interpretation*' at the Meeting House, 82 Lr. Churchtown Rd. on Tuesday, May 28 at 7.30pm.

New Envelope System

Thank you to all who have responded to this new initiative. More than 50 parishioners have already signed up, and we would really encourage everyone to join this very beneficial scheme.

Parish Finance Committee