

## Prayer for Peace

Lord,  
Lead us from death to life,  
From falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our universe.  
Let us dream together, pray together and work together.  
To build one world of peace and justice for all.  
Amen



**Fr Andrew O'Sullivan, Parish Priest**  
**Parish Chaplain**      **Fr David Larkin**  
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### THANK YOU

As part of the on-going re-organisation within the parish, I want to announce that Mrs Jackie Hearne has sadly left the Parish this week.

As many of you will be aware, during her time with the Parish in her role as pastoral worker, Jackie was responsible for building up the family Mass, the community, and organising activities and refreshments for all ages every Sunday.

Jackie is held in high regard by Parishioners and the Archdiocese. The Archdiocese asked Jackie for her assistance in running a seminar in Clonliffe College on the family Mass.

Jackie had a deep understanding and appreciation for Parish rather than school based First Communion and Confirmations. In our Parish where none of the schools have a Catholic ethos.

Jackie built a strong relationship with parents and families in the Parish. From time to time, Jackie stepped in and taught Religion classes on a as need basis.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of parents and children in the Parish when I say that we will miss Jackie and we thank her for her service.

Fr Andrew.

### CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM

A meeting will be in the Parish Hall, Rathgar .Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm, all volunteers and any interested parties are very welcome to attend. This is an important priority for Rathgar Parish. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

### FIRST FRIDAY

Divine Mercy Devotions will take place on Friday 4th March at 7pm to include Mass Benediction, chaplet, and Blessing with the Relic of St Faustina Devotions will be followed by vigil.

**Synod 2022 - Pope Francis has invited all Catholic Parishes throughout the world to engage The Synodal Pathway. Rathmines & Rathgar Parishes are hosting two 'Synodal Pathway' meetings in Rathmines Parish Centre on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of March and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March from 4pm to 5.30pm. The word 'synodal' means journeying together and these gatherings will be an opportunity to share and listen to each other's experience of Church, in an organised, gentle and prayerful environment. All are most welcome to attend.**

### Lent 2022 - Adult Faith Classes -

**Rathmines Parish is hosting a weekly adult faith formation evening for Lent 2022 from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March to 7<sup>th</sup> of April every Thursday evening from 7.30pm – 9pm in Rathmines Parish Centre. The programme will be based on the popular documentary series 'Catholicism' and will be followed by tea's/coffees. You do not have to attend the previous class to attend any evening. ALL ARE WELCOME. Please contact [secretary@rathminesparish.com](mailto:secretary@rathminesparish.com) to register your interest. More information can be found at [www.rathminesparish.ie](http://www.rathminesparish.ie)**

## HOMILY

Let's not forget the power of the good word, the healing word, the helping word. A good word, a Christian word to another has an effect that will last a lifetime. This first reading is taken from what is called the Wisdom Literature. Wisdom, in Hebrew and early Christian thought, was a very concrete virtue. It didn't have much to do with lofty and abstract thought. Wisdom, rather, was a matter of acting rightly, prudently, paying careful attention to the rightness of even the smallest detail of day to day life. For the scriptural authors of both Testaments, all of that was especially true when day to day details at issue were words.

In the Hebrew and early Christian view of reality, words had a value, a power, almost a life of their own. So, to give to someone else your word, to speak to them, was to give them something of yourself, to establish a personal bond with them. That was most clearly so when the word that was given was someone's name or title. The name was the person. Understanding that, I think, gives tremendous weight to what is a revelation of the love that God has for his people that is utterly unique to the Hebrew Christian tradition. God chooses to give his name, his titles, to us and invites us to use them when we address him.

Today's readings from Sirach and the Gospel speak about the power of the Tongue, the power of Speech. They are about the tongue as a sword and a symptom.

First, the tongue can be a sword. If we think back on the past twenty-four hours of our day, there are a number of people we have touched physically maybe with a pat on the back or a handshake. How many more people have we touched with our words?

With our words we can give comfort, strength, encouragement, praise. We can sing with our tongues to the glory of God or we can hurt people, destroy reputations, spread suspicion and slander. Our words can clarify and clear the air. They can deceive and create confusion. Words can cause war or begin the process of peace.

The old saying that "*sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me*" is a lie. We all know the terrible terror of the untamed tongue. The tongue is only three inches long but it can do a great deal of damage and create a great deal of hurt.

The tongue is also a symptom. The tongue as we all know is an indicator of the state of our health physically. That's why the doctor checks it. It's also an indicator of the state of our health spiritually. Our Lord's concluding words in the Gospel, '*From the fullness of the heart, the mouth speaks*', teaches that how we speak to and about others is a symptom, a fairly good indicator of what is happening in our heart.

As we approach Lent, our readings call us to look not only at our speech but also at our heart. Lent is a time to look within at the state of our heart. Are we trying to clear the speck from another's and missing the log in our own? Can we see clearly enough to lead another? What is the condition of our heart? Is it a Christian heart or a self-absorbed heart, a heart of darkness?

Let's not forget the power of the good word, the healing word, the helping word. A good word, a Christian word to another has an effect that will last a lifetime.

If our heart reflects Christ, so will our words. We all have work to do!

LENT WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH—THURSDAY 14TH APRIL

MASSES FOR LENT

7.30AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

10AM MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

5.30PM TUESDAY AND SATURDAY

THERE WILL BE NO 7.30AM MASS ON ST PATRICK'S DAY AS IT'S A BANK HOLIDAY