

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

Pope Francis has just arrived in Panama for World Youth Day; Deirbhile O'Keefe from Raheny carried the Irish Tricolour in the procession for the opening event and I hope when the Pope saw it he recalled with joy his visit here during the summer. Pope Francis has a great affection for young people; he loves their way of seeing life, their idealism; he connects with their dreams and hopes. Young people want a better world, a more joyful church, and to be heard by those who are in authority over them. Francis talks about the 'encounter' with young people and says "They teach older generations that encountering one another doesn't mean wearing the same things, listening to the same music, or believing the same things. No, the culture of encounter is a call to dare to keep alive a shared dream, a great dream, a dream that has a place for everyone: The dream for which Jesus gave his life on the cross." In the coming days he will meet with the young people, teach the young people, challenge them with the Gospel of Love and celebrate the Eucharist with them. He will be respectful of their life experiences and their journey of faith. He will communicate that he trusts them to embrace the teaching of Jesus and to live as his disciples. Our task is to echo his words, share his vision and encounter young people, here in the parish, with openness, trust and kindness.

Update on the Building Works

The Chair of the Parish Finance Committee was informed during the week that we have been granted permission to undertake the works at the church. You will recall the main positive benefits to the parish that we will achieve when these works are complete: Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certification; the provision of suitable office space for our current staff members; new toilets; and the total refurbishment of St. Patrick's Hall. The costs of the project are coming from the sale of No.50 Rathgar Road. When the actual building of the project is ready to begin, we will communicate the different ways that the works may impact on parish services.

Volunteers:

The parish has wonderful volunteers who are talented, generous with their time, and invaluable to the life and ministries of the church. At the moment a couple of areas are very urgently in need of support from volunteers: Each day we need someone to close up the Church, which means to lock the doors, turn out the lights, and check that the alarm is on. Sunday 6.15pm Mass needs a few people to volunteer as sacristans and collectors. Until recently we had a wonderful man who came each week and supported that Mass, but he has now retired. The Baptism Team and Funeral Ministry also need some new volunteers. If you are interested please contact Caroline, our Parish Administrator, at 3patrons@eircom.net or 01-4972215.

Collections 20th January 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,517
Share Collection: €709

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

Calcutta Hope Foundation The students of Alexandra College will hold the outdoor collection today for the Calcutta Hope Foundation.

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord If you would like to bring candles to be blessed, there will be a blessing at 10.00am Mass on Saturday 2nd February 2019.

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.

Gianna Care provides compassionate, life-affirming and confidential care during pregnancy. If you would like further information, please see notices at back of church or call 086 0293727.

Save the Date: World Day of the Sick 2019 will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic '*Community Struggle with Addiction - A Pastoral Response*'. More details closer to the time.

Divine Mercy Devotions will take place this First Friday 1st February at 7pm to include Mass, Benediction, Chaplet, and Blessing with Relic of St Faustina. Devotions will be followed by vigil.

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.

Trinity College researchers at Dublin Institute of Neuroscience are looking for volunteers to take part in an exciting new study examining on grip-strength as we age. They are looking for adults over the age of 66 who are right-handed. Participation involves approximately 8 hours over the course of 4 weeks, with a short follow-up one month later. If you are interested, please email Eimile Holton, Trinity College at eholton@tcd.ie or call 0858245898.