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Collections 20th March 2022
1st Collection : Common Fund €1356
2nd Collection: Share € 535



Mothers Day Prayer

Lord, thank you for all mothers. For the new ones, who endure sleepless nights with infants in arms. For the busy ones, who juggle the pressures of home and family life. For the steadfast ones, who nurture and care for our special vulnerable children. For the patient ones, who always seek to forgive and engage with their pre-teens. For the persistent ones, who cleverly find new ways to connect with their mini-adults. For the mother aunts, who step in to cradle and care for nieces and nephews. For all grandmas, who love and support their precious grandchildren. For the foster mums that are called to gather and cover the fragile ones. For the mums who give far beyond their own resources, who overcome disability to cherish and love. Thank you Lord for all our beautiful mothers. Help us to support them and keep them in our prayers. May you bless

FIRST FRIDAY

Diving Mercy Devotions will take place on Friday 1st April at 7pm to include Mass Benediction, chaplet, and Blessing with the Relic of St Faustina Devotions will be followed by vigil.

We are delighted to announce the return of our Monday morning tea and coffee/chat after 10am mass All are welcome. Fr Andrew



Rathmines & Rathgar Parishes are pleased to be joining the annual Dublin Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday the 23rd of April. A bus will be leaving from Rathmines Church at 0730am and returning at 2000pm. A pilgrimage programme is being co-ordinated by the Archdiocese and concludes with Mass in the Basilica at 3pm celebrated by Archbishop Farrell. If you wish to register for the pilgrimage please email Rathmines Parish Office on secretary@rathminesparish.com or Rathgar Parish Office at parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie. There will be a cost of 25euros per person, which is payable on the day.

HOMILY

There are two very distinct images of the need for conversion in this Gospel passage.

The restlessness, the hunger of the younger son, the rule-breaker. His readiness to sacrifice everything for the satisfaction of those hungers. But human hungers cannot be satisfied with things and with sensations, no matter how exotic and expensive they may be. Sometimes, when that realisation happens, as it inevitably does, the rule-breaker has sense enough to swallow his pride, to turn around and come back, as did the son in this story.

And the elder son, the rule-keeper, was the one who did what he was expected to do, dependably, responsibly. Yet it was his attitude which the father reprimands.

Certainly, the father was not reprimanding him because of his righteousness or his responsibility. The eldest son's failure was that, while he followed his father's example on the surface, he certainly did not follow that example in his heart.

In the return of the prodigal, the elder son was called upon not only to do his duty and follow the rules but to go far beyond that, far beyond his own sense of justice, and to be an extravagantly loving and forgiving brother to one who had mocked his rules, broken them all, and, it's easy to imagine, deeply offended him in the process. He was unable to meet that test, and in that, really, revealed the anger and resentment that had probably marked his righteousness all along.

The elder son was unable to accept the fact that the father's attitude toward both of them was exactly the same. The father wanted the prodigal son to give up his self-destructive foolishness and come home, and he was overjoyed when that happened. But just as strongly, he wanted the elder son to give up his own brand of self-destructive foolishness, to stop being so angry and resentful, and follow him down the road to welcome the prodigal home.

That is the image of the Father that Christ presents to us in this parable. It is an image that can be a little bit unsettling. It is an image of God to whom punishment, vengeance, recrimination are empty words, a God who asks of us that we simply accept the totally unconditional, loving forgiveness he offers us, and who asks that we offer the same to one another.

It is really just that simple. If we do not learn to forgive one another as lovingly as the Father forgives us, we will probably stay outside. True enough, for us, as for the elder son, it can be a difficult thing to do, that kind of total, loving reconciliation without reservation, without judgement.

But difficult or not, the only other choice is to miss the celebration. And that would be a personal tragedy.

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 27th 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.

Special Collection for Ukraine: The Irish Bishops have asked for a Special Collection to be taken up instead of Share at Masses on the weekend of 26/27 March to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine and especially the families and children who have had to flee their homeland in advance of the Russian invasion. The proceeds of this Special Collection will be directed to Caritas Internationalis, which is the helping hand of the Church on the ground in the Ukraine and the surrounding region. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.



Confessions will be held immediately after 10am mass on Saturday morning