

IT'S STILL CHRISTMAS IN RATHGAR

The cheek of him! Christmas indeed! It can be offensive you know! Not like "Happy Holiday"!

Though to be sure not an ounce of offence is intended! Rather, love, joy and peace to each and every one of our sisters and brothers on this beautiful but troubled planet.

Once again darkness is gathering all over the world and prophets of gloom abound. "Keep them out! Lock them up! Throw up the barricade. They are our enemy!"

On the world stage, and even in our own family, we label, we box we judge.

Amidst all this, in the deep mid-winter, and in the darkest deeds we are capable of, there is a little cry. The cry of the newborn; helpless, poor, hungry and needing love.

Is it the King? Is it the King of Kings?

Born in a stable. In a feeding box! For the most part a hidden life in little Nazareth. A travelling Rabbi, no fixed abode, misunderstood and living in the shadow of death.

His life apparently ending in a gasp of abandonment on a lump of wood we call the Cross.

Is it the King? Yes, it is the King of Kings. It is Jesus on his knees washing our feet. It is God amongst us. God in our poverty. God in our mess? God in our brokenness and pain. Will we celebrate Christmas here? Yes it is still Christmas in Rathgar. Amidst all the darkness and fear we celebrate!

We proclaim Jesus, the light that no darkness can put out. Here in our parish we will shout it, sing it, celebrate. Yes to you and to all a Happy Christmas.

(adapted from Fr Joe McDonald. PP) by Fr Paul Taylor. PP Rathgar.

Collections 22nd December 2019

Offertory Collection:	€1,902
Share Collection:	€ 990

Christian Meditation takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. 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.

The Parish Office will be closed from Mon 23rd Dec to Thurs 2nd Jan. If you have any urgent queries, please contact Fr Paul at 01 4972215

Pianist at 6.15pm Evening Mass We urgently require a pianist for the Sunday evening Mass. This will be a temporary position, and if you can help, please contact our Pastoral Worker, Jackie Hearne at 087 7422653. *Thank you.*

Christmas Card a misprint appears in the Christmas Card: Masses will be at the usual time of 10.30am; 12 noon, and 6.15pm on Sunday 29th December.

World Day of Peace 2020 will be celebrated in the Diocese at a special Mass in the Church of St. Therése, Mount Merrion, on 1st January 2020 at 11:00am. The theme chosen by Pope Francis this year is *Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion*. All welcome.

Children's Programme for Advent. As St Patrick's Hall is still not available, the children will go to the Sacristy as usual during Mass for a short lesson and some prayer time followed by Arts and Crafts. The capacity of the Sacristy means we may have to restrict the programme to children under 6 years of age, and if any older children are excluded, the craft will be available after Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY

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

Christmas Dues envelopes are available from the tables in the entrance area for those who did not receive any in the post. Dues are for the support of the priests of the parish and the sick and retired priests of the diocese. As some of the retired priests are now being cared for in nursing homes it is really helpful if everyone could make some contribution to the Dues. Your priests, past and present are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

Christmas and New Year Liturgies 2020

Sun 6th Jan 2020 Feast of the Epiphany

Masses 7.30am; 10.00 am; 6.15pm

7.30am Daily Mass will resume on Mon 6th Jan