

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

Ireland's saints capture the best of Gaelic traditions and enfold them into the Gospel values and from their teaching and guidance we can grow both as Christians and as proud Irish people. Let us think of St Brigid: Her charism of prayer, welcome for the stranger, and care of both the poor, and the earth, is as relevant today as at any time in our history. Recently a government minister suggested that we perhaps have too many schools and hospitals named after saints; it could be that the virtues of these saints and the effect of their teaching is actually something that we need more of !

Please take a moment and pray with St Brigid and take inspiration from her spirit.

Prayer to St. Saint Brigid

You were a woman of peace.
You brought harmony where there was conflict.
You brought light to the darkness.
You brought hope to the downcast.
May the mantle of your peace
cover those who are troubled and anxious,
and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts
and in our world.
Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God
has made.
Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and
the weary.
Strengthen what is weak within us.
Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.
May we grow each day into greater
wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
Amen.

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.

Collections 27th January 2019

Offertory Collection: €1,475
Share Collection: €888

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

St Vincent de Paul Collection will be held on next Sunday 10th 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 Sat 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic '*Community Struggle with Addiction - A Pastoral Response*'. €10.00 per person. Booking is essential. Forms available from the Parish Office or at the back of the church.

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.

Children's Programme during Lent Many of you are familiar with the Children's Programme during the 10.30am Family Mass, where the children go into St Patrick's Hall for a short prayer/lesson/thought for the week, followed by an arts and crafts project which they can then bring home. The programme has become very popular, and with the increase in numbers, we now need help from parents in assisting with the activities. Jackie Hearne, our pastoral worker, is holding a meeting on Tuesday 12th February at 7.30pm in St Columba's Room, 49 Rathgar Road, for parents interested in setting up a plan for Lent. This will include deciding what activity to do on the six Sundays; setting up rotas for preparing the craft beforehand; and supervising and helping children on the day. We look forward to seeing you there.