

Social media can be anything but social

Michael Commane

Social media is all pervasive. If ever anything was in your face it sure is social media.

And no one knows better how to use it to their advantage than President Donald Trump. He calls people names, says outrageous things about his opponents or enemies as he likes to call them. It's been his trademark since taking up office.

People could easily imagine that he fires all these tweets off in moments of rage or madness. That's highly unlikely. No doubt he has a team of very clever people, who are constantly checking in with focus groups, who know exactly what sort of tweets will work to the president's advantage.

Richard Stengel, who was managing editor of 'Time' magazine from 2006 to 2013 and then later worked for two years in the Obama administration, has written a book on how the West is losing the battle against disinformation. And he's greatly perplexed with what to do with social media.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, speaking at a Mass in University Church Dublin to mark the canonisation of John Henry Newman, made reference to the tone and content of what people are saying on social media about church teaching.

The archbishop criticises Catholic pundits on the left and on the right and has no problem in saying that their comments are "anything but kindly".

He talks about the negativity and polarisation that is happening and that there is a retreat into 'self-defined certainties'

A serious problem with social media is that there is no room or space for any attempt at nuance. Social media 'winners' are those who can shout the loudest and the boldest.

"A Catholicism of self-defined certainties will lead eventually to a doubt about all certainties and thus emptiness," the archbishop said.

Our lives are journeys. There is no moment when we are the possessors of all knowledge. Surely that means we are always listening and learning, discovering too.

The November Altar List of the Dead is one of the many ways in which we remember our deceased relatives and friends, and join our intentions in the Masses the priests offer for the repose of their souls. Please feel welcome to complete a list of your own and drop it in one of the special envelopes into the safe anytime during this month. All Masses on the First Fridays of the year are offered for those on the Altar List of the Dead.

Annual Remembrance Mass

Our Annual Mass to remember those whose funerals took place in the parish during the year will be held this evening

Sunday, November 3rd at 6.15pm.

All parishioners who have been bereaved during the past year are also welcome.

Collections 27th October 2019

Offertory Collection: €1, 137
Share Collection: €1, 053

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

Kyuso Concert

The annual concert in aid of our partner parish in Kyuso, Kenya will take place on **Friday, November 29th at 8.00pm** in the Church.

This year it will be The Eurovision Show, starring Johnny Logan.

Tickets at €35 will be on sale after all Masses. They will also be available from our usual outlets and at rathgarconcert@gmail.com

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.

Rathgar Ladies Club Annual Mass for deceased members in association with RARA will be celebrated on Monday 4th November at 10.00am.

Beechwood Parish

As and from Sunday 17th November 2019, the Irish Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am.**
and

Monday to Friday

Mass will be celebrated at **9.00am**

Rathgar Ladies Club ****Change of Venue**** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. The next event is a talk entitled 'The Secret Life of Bees' by honey farmer, Ken Norton, on Thurs 7th November at 8.00pm. New members always welcome.

Handel's Messiah the Guinness Choir & Orchestra will perform Handel's Messiah on Sunday 24th November at 7.30pm in St Peter's Church, Phibsborough, Dublin 7 For more information phone 01 8389708. Tickets cost €20 at Eventbrite –www.eventbrite.ie

Trinity College Dublin requires participants aged over 65 for a study into cognitive function and hearing. If you are interested please contact David Loughrey at 087 3378495, or see the poster at the back of the Church.

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