

A few words from the Parish Priest...

May is a great month in the parish: We have lots going on, and no doubt the First Communion days are a highlight. Everyone has their own reason for loving this celebration when children come to meet the Lord in the Eucharist for the first time. Since last September they have been preparing for their First Communion, both in school, at the 'Do This in Memory' Masses, and at home. Over the next two weekends they will come and celebrate with their families and friends and all the preparations help them to recognise, to know and to love the Lord. Looking back at our lives there will be a number of 'firsts' that we recall fondly: First day in school; first best friend; first kiss; first drink; and so on. First is just a beginning; best to follow on with lots more experiences that build on crossing that threshold. We go on to have lots of experiences of school and college; lots of friends; many kisses; perhaps many drinks. Receiving the Eucharist; coming to know the Lord as master and friend; and sharing in the Mass with family, friends and the faith community, is what we hope for with these children. We don't count the number of times we receive, but we hope it will be often. Let's do all we can to make these children and all who accompany them welcome here, and by our way of celebrating, let them see how much we love coming together and sharing the Eucharist.

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May
Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am

New Envelope System for Collections at Weekend Masses from June 2019

Under a new initiative from the Parish Finance Committee, we hope to start using an envelope system, on a voluntary basis, for our basket collections at Sunday Masses from 16th June 2019. **What are the benefits of such a system and how will it work?** A tax scheme exists whereby those who contribute €250 or more to a charity in a given calendar year can allow the charity claim an additional sum (equal to almost 45% of the donation) from the Revenue Commissioners. The Revenue sends this additional sum directly to the charity concerned. The Three Patrons Parish, Rathgar has the status of a charity for tax relief purposes, so any donation that is given to Three Patrons Parish is classified as a charitable donation. It is important to say that there is no cost or loss incurred by any taxpayer who is willing to be part of this scheme and that confidentiality will be assured in all aspects of this process. With this envelope system in place we can then generate **substantial extra revenue** for our Parish **at no extra cost** to either the Parish or parishioners. An information letter giving further details will be inserted into the Newsletter on Sundays 12th and 19th May.

Collections 28th April 2019

Offertory Collection: 1,436
Share Collection: 727

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 12th May.

First Holy Communion will be celebrated this year on Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th May 2018 at the 10.30am Family Mass.

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.

Lough Derg St Oliver Plunkett Pilgrimage 2019 will take place on three Fridays: 31st May; 5th July; and 9th August. See poster at the back of the Church for details, or phone Miriam at: 01 4941171.

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 9th May at 10.30am in St Columba's Room, 49 Rathgar Road. New members welcome.

The Bethany Bereavement Group meeting will be held in Rathgar Parish Centre, 52 Grosvenor Road, Rathgar on Wed 8th May at 8.00pm and at The Milltown Parish Centre on Wed 15th May at 8.00pm.

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.

Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services, Harold's Cross, is asking for volunteers to help with fundraising on Sunflower Days, Friday 7th and Saturday 8th June 2019. If you can help, please contact Mary Brien or Ann Julian on 01 4911072 or mbrien@olh.ie

Rathgar Ladies Club ****Change of Venue**** to Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. The next meeting on Thursday 9th May at 8.00pm, will feature 'Misses Liffey Music Hall' supported by Dublin City Council. New members always welcome.

York Road and York Avenue 7th Annual Street Party will be held today 5th May 2019 from 1.00 – 6.00pm.