

The Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar Parish Newsletter

6th September 2020

Parish Priest : Fr Paul Taylor Ph:4971058
Parish Chaplain: Fr Michael Commane,OP
Parish Administrator: Caroline Nolan
Pastoral Assistant: Cepta Lyons
Parish Pastoral Worker: Jackie Hearne

Parish Office Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:30am – 12.30pm

Sunday: 10.30am – 12.30pm

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The Diocesan Child Safeguarding Policy is published on all notice boards in the Church and the Parish Centre, and copies of the document are available to read in the Parish Office and the Parish Centre. For further information please see www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Three Patrons

Sunday: **8.45am**; 10.30am; 12 noon; 5.30pm.

Monday to Friday 7.30am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10.00am

Tuesday, Thursday: 5.30pm

Beechwood Parish

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm

Sunday (as Gaeilge) 9.00am; **10.45am**.

Tuesday, Thursday: 10.00am.

We encourage everyone who visits the church to wear a face covering, and to practice hand sanitising and social distancing, in order to protect everyone's health.

A Prayer for the Earth

(for the Season of Creation 1st Sept – 4th Oct 2020)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,

help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts

of those who look only for gain

at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognize that we are profoundly united

with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle

for justice, love and peace.

From Laudato Sí, 246

From the Pastor's Desk.....

For children and students, September is the season of new beginnings. It brings the excitement and anxiety of going to school for the first time. Older pupils moving into post-primary schools are the 'minnows' again in first year, having been the 'big fish' of 6th class primary earlier in the year.

On 1st September, Catholics and Orthodox Christians together set out on the 'Season of Creation' which runs until October 4th, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Each of us is encouraged to give thanks for all that is beautiful in our world during the 'Season of Creation' focus.

Why not resolve each day to name 7 things in your experience of life and our beautiful world for which you can say: "Thank you, Lord"?

Pope Francis in 'Laudato Si' prayed: "Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is."

The present Covid19 crisis has certainly brought home to us all how inter-connected we are whether we like it or not. Many of us had lost that sense; we were seduced by the illusion that "My life is my own, I can do what I like". That that bubble has burst is no bad thing. In fact, it is a ground for hope.

All of us, irrespective of religious belief, can work together to build a better future by laying down the firm foundation of our inter-connectedness in every direction. We are not only connected horizontally to our fellow human beings, but virtually, up to the birds of the air and down to the depths of the oceans where plankton thrives.

In the Gospel today from Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus outlines a step-by-step process for healing the rupture wrong-doing causes. It is a task of persistent patience. We have wounded our planet. With arrogance we humans have ruptured the delicate web of life. But we need not despair! Through many steps, often small ones, we can cultivate hope. The Holy Spirit equips us to break open the hard crust of cynicism and plant the seeds of care and tenderness to help heal our planet.

Sadly, we have often misread today's Gospel and used it as a justification for pushing others away and excommunicating them. We conveniently forgot how Jesus treated tax-collectors like Zaccheus and pagans like the Roman Centurians who asked for help! He loved them.

So let us not be afraid of 'new beginnings' and hold on to the words of St Paul: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour" (Romans 13:10)

7.30am Daily Mass and new Sunday Mass

We are happy to announce the return of our
7.30am daily Mass Monday to Friday
starting on
Monday 31st August 2020 at 7.30am
and
an additional 8.45am Mass on Sunday
starting on
Sunday 6th September at 8.45am

Collections on 30th August 2020

First Collection €637

Second Collection €346

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

CONFIRMATION 2020

We are delighted to confirm that the long awaited Sacrament of Confirmation for the children of the Parish will be held on Saturday the 26th September. There will be two Services at 11.30am and 12.30am. Parents of Confirmation children will be contacted with further details. The Confirmation Services will be restricted to Confirmation Candidates and their families only.

FAMILY MASS

As many of you will be aware, the Family Mass normally resumes after the Summer break on the first Sunday in September. And even though we have all been looking forward to having families return, unfortunately the current restrictions affect every aspect of the Family Mass, as we know it. It will be impossible to have Altar Servers, children processing, the Childrens' Choir, multiple children reading, or refreshments afterwards. **For this reason we have decided to defer the resumption of the Family Mass to a later date.** We will monitor the re-opening of the schools over the next few weeks, and we will also try to connect with many of the parents/guardians to find a way for the Family Mass to go forward. In the meantime, if anyone would like to give their input, thoughts, ideas or worries please contact our Pastoral Worker Jackie Hearne at 087 7422653. *Please note that the 10.30am Mass will continue in the same format as the last few weeks.*

CHY 3 Forms We recently sent out 121 forms for your signature, and we are delighted to say that 61 forms have been returned to date. If you haven't returned your form, could I remind you to drop it into the office in the SAE enclosed. This is a vital source of revenue to the parish. As some of the records may have incomplete addresses, we will contact you via email to ensure we have the correct information for your donations. We are very grateful for your assistance with this important task. Fr Paul Taylor

To facilitate preparing the children for First Communion and Confirmation, it will be necessary to close the church doors on *Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm – 5.00pm*, and we apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

Volunteers We were unable to have our recruitment drive in March as planned, but if any parishioner feels they would like to help with the *Parish Finance Committee*, or with the *Money Counting*, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Caroline at 01 4972215 for more details.