

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Words are sacred**

Michael Commane

UK prime minister Boris Johnson's chief political adviser, Dominic Cummings was in the news some weeks ago. The controversy brought home the importance of words.

There's that great expression 'my word is my bond. Yet it would be unwise to sign off on an agreement without a contract and written signature'.

Words go in and out of fashion.

There is no end to what one could write about the meaning, etymology and use of words.

For example did you know that the word inflammable and flammable have the same meaning. Only in recent days an engineer told me that those two words have been replaced with combustible and non-combustible.

Ever notice how RTE uses the word presently correctly? They never use it to mean the present.

Keeping a keen eye on the Cummings controversy I was amused with British politicians and their use of words in the affair.

I carefully listened to Johnson's press conference on Sunday, May 24 and to the interview with the Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps on the Andrew Marr BBC programme earlier that day.

They avoided and dodged the questions. But what was striking was how careful they were with their words. I was left in a haze of confusion having watched both men.

We can use words to tell the truth, to tell lies, to befuddle. Clever people, who don't want to tell the truth, have the ability to confuse and befuddle.

I came away from both the Johnson and Shapps interviews in the belief that both men were being economical with the truth.

The following day Cummings gave an hour-long interview in the garden of Downing Street. Some of what he said was absurd. He told journalists that he drove his car on an hour-long journey to see if his eyesight was okay so that he could drive back from Durham to London the following day. That must go down as an infamous quote.

Cummings has a way with words. He's clever and in his press conference he managed to garner a certain sympathy. I have to admit that I never before saw such a human side to the man.

The story with words can often be like everything else in our lives: there's one law for the rich and another for the poor.

Our world would be a better place for all of us, rich and poor, if the words we use were linked to truth. Words are sacred.

**New Parish Webcam**

As the Government and health authorities have mandated a 'stay at home' policy, Mass will be celebrated in Three Patrons via our new webcam on the website:

***rathgarparish.ie***.

The following is the schedule:

**Sunday 12 noon**

**Monday 11am**

**Wednesday 11am**

**Friday 11am**

**Saturday 11am**

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Mass on the **Beechwood Avenue webcam** is as follows:

**Sunday 10.00am**

**Tuesday 10.00am**

**Thursday 10.00am**

**Our church will remain open on a daily basis for prayer and visitation, but, as the Archbishop has strongly advised, it will remain closed during Mass, and we also encourage everyone who visits the church to practice social distancing in order to protect each other's health.**

**Planning for the re-opening of Three Patrons**

As we look forward to the eventual re-opening of our church, we are sending an appeal this week to those parishioners who would be willing to act as stewards or 'Sherpas', in assisting with the implementation of Government guidelines with regard to social distancing and public safety, during our Sunday Masses here at Three Patrons.

If you feel you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office by phone; 01 4972215, or email: [3patrons@eircom.net](mailto:3patrons@eircom.net), and leave your name, your phone number and your email address, and we will contact you in the coming weeks.

Thank you  
The Parish Pastoral Council

**Novena to the Sacred Heart**

will take place this year from

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

There are prayer leaflets at the back of the church.

The novena is also free in the June edition of the Messenger, or can be downloaded from *messenger.ie*

**Spiritual Communion**

*Prayer of St Teresa of Avila when she could not take part in Mass because of her travels.*

My Jesus, really present in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, since I cannot now receive you under the Sacramental veil, I ask You, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul and abide with me forever.  
Amen.