

Highest in reds, lowest in blacks

Michael Commane

A few weeks ago I was invited to lunch by a family who come here to Mass.

Meal over, five of us sat down to play 25. Two of us had some idea how to play the game but for the three younger people, it was all new territory. The other person who had some idea about 25 is from the North of Ireland and the fun we had in our interpretation of the rules was hilarious. In the card game 25, each person is given five cards. In dealing the cards you begin by giving each person three cards and then two cards. The player from the North said no, you first give each person two cards and then three cards. Of course there is no difference but it did manage to create a funny disagreement between us.

Two hours into our game I saw a side to all the players that I had never seen before. It was hilarious. One player wanted to know why the Five of Hearts had such a high rating. How do you answer a question like that?

There was some cheating too.

The laughs, the excitement, a bit of shouting and dodgy language too, added to the fun.

A simple game of playing cards gave us the best entertainment I experienced in a long time.

People still play cards, especially Whist and Bridge but regular card-playing by amateurs like me seems long dead.

Is it that we are all too busy and have no time for such 'simple games'. God love us, if that's the way our thinking has gone. But I'm part of that gang as I have not played card games in years.

There was no money on the table. Had there been, I can't imagine it would have improved the fun.

CORONAVIRUS CHECKLIST FOR PARISHES

Following on the detailed advice issued by the HSE at the weekend, essential in the coming days and weeks is that everyone follows both the prescribed hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.

Regarding Sunday celebrations, the advice given is that *the following should be suspended:*

- The Sign of Peace
- The practice of shaking hands on greeting and departure
- The use of holy water fonts
- The practice of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue

By following the essential advice of both hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene, we will create a safer environment for all. In addition, a calm and common sense approach will also help at this time. For full HSE advice, see the website: <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-religious-services/>

Collections 1st March 2020

Offertory Collection: €1,416

Share Collection: €825

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

St Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection will be held today Sunday 8th March. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated.

The Children's Lenten Programme will continue on each Sunday during Lent, when the children will gather in St Patrick's Hall for a liturgy reading and arts and crafts session. All are welcome to attend

Christian Meditation takes place every Thursday morning after 10.00 am Mass and will now gather in the new meeting room in the left hand aisle. 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.

Sunday Morning Coffee will be served every Sunday in St Patrick's Hall following the 10.30am Mass. Come and join us and avail of the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow parishioners.

The Way of the Cross will be led by Fr Paul each Friday morning during Lent after the 10am Mass, and if you wish to pray the stations at any other time, a leaflet is available at the back of the Church to assist you.

The Bethany Bereavement Group meeting will be held in Rathgar Parish Centre, 52 Grosvenor Road, Rathgar on Wed 11th March at 8.00pm and at The Milltown Parish Centre on Wed 18th March at 8.00pm. Please phone Anne at 086 3602198

St Joseph's Young Priests' Society monthly meeting will take place on Thursday 12th March at 10.30am in the Sacristy. New members welcome.

Lenten Series of Talks 2020

in

St Columba's Room

Sr Therese Fitzgerald's Lenten Series of talks on the subject of '*Finding meaning during Lent*' will take place on Wednesday evenings the 11th, 18th, and 25th March from 7.30pm-9.00pm in **St Columba's Room in the basement of 49 Rathgar Road**. The sign-in list is still available at the back of the Church.

Old Dublin Society Tom Conlon will present 'On the Banks of the Dodder' at 6 p.m. on Wednesday March 11th in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 -144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2 All welcome .

Rathgar Ladies Club continues to meet in Harold's Cross Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. Edward Schwartz will present his one-man show on '*Charles Darrow – Great American Liberties Lawyer*' on Thursday 12th March at 8.00pm. New members always welcome.