

Michael Commane

There is wall-to-wall media coverage on the political shenanigans taking place in the UK.

Last Monday after the Channel 4 evening news there was a special programme on Brexit. There were four political panellists, two leavers and two remainers. The audience was evenly divided between leavers and remainers.

There was much passion, fury and anger in the hour-long programme. Bad manners too.

And certainly I for one was none the wiser after it all. It set me thinking about how we come to decisions, how we make up our minds on matters. Is it that we come to decisions by means of hunches, gossip, inaccurate information, group think? The list is endless.

One of the Gospel readings in last week's liturgy told the reader that the people listened to Jesus because he spoke with authority.

The word authority comes from the Latin word 'auctor' meaning 'author/source'. Jesus spoke from his own sources, knowing exactly what he was saying.

Is it that too much news is being thrown at us at present. Dare I make a confession? In this current Brexit row I have developed a little game: when people appear on television to talk about Brexit, before they get into the debate I try to decide whether they are leavers or remainers from the way they speak, how they look, even the way they dress.

Come to think of it, I do that concerning other aspects of daily life too.

What is it that forms our opinions and views? Why does one person vote for one party and another person voter for a different party?

Why is one person a Muslim, another a Buddhist, another an atheist and someone else a Christian? History, geography and indeed conviction play significant roles in who we are.

Most likely I'm a Christian and a Catholic because I was born into a Catholic family.

Is it all something of a mystery? Theologians talk about a divine plan.

Advertising is a multi-billion euro industry. Companies spend large sums of money on PR and every political party has spin doctors.

Obviously they are all trying to get our attention, win over our minds and empty our pockets.

When is it propaganda and when is it information?

A question: when last did you change your mind about something or about someone?

Indeed, over the years I have voted for different political parties and I have certainly changed my views and opinions on many topics, social, political, religious. But I'm wondering how intellectually honest I have been in coming to decisions?

But fanaticism in it all its forms and shapes is scary.

And then there's Brexit.

**The Bethany Bereavement** Group meeting will be held in Rathgar Parish Centre, 52 Grosvenor Road, Rathgar on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm and at The Milltown Parish Centre on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm

## Collections 25<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Offertory Collection: € 1, 681

Crosscare Collection: €1, 780

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

**St Vincent de Paul** Collection will be held today Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated.

**St Vincent de Paul** Annual Clothing appeal takes place this year on the 22nd September 2018; bags will be available at the church next Sunday 15th September, and will then be collected on the 22nd September. Thank you for your continuing generosity with this appeal.

**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.

### *Fr Joe's Farewell*

A Mass of Thanksgiving  
will be celebrated

on

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019

at 5.30pm

*for all Parishioners, Adults and Children.*

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Mass will be followed by a

Celebration in

Milltown Golf Club.

Tickets for Milltown will be available

from

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

after all Masses and in the Parish Office

Price €25.00.

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The Parish Pastoral Council, on behalf of the parishioners, will make a presentation to Fr Joe at the Mass of Thanksgiving, and if you would like to contribute to this presentation, Gift Envelopes are available at the back of the Church, into which you can place your donation, and put it in the safe.

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A book of photos, messages, and good wishes from parishioners, will be created for Fr Joe, and cards for this will be distributed after all Masses, and also will be available in the Parish Office. These cards can then be completed and left in the safe.

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**Rathgar Ladies Club** **\*\*Change of Venue\*\*** to Pastoral Centre beside Holy Rosary Church. The first event of the year will be 'Past Times' kindly sponsored by Dublin City Council, on Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm. New members always welcome.