

# The Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar Parish Newsletter

9th August 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: 9:30am – 12.30pm  
Sunday: 10.30am – 12.30pm  
**Phone:** 01 4972215

**NEWemail:** parishofficerathgar@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.rathgarparish.ie](http://www.rathgarparish.ie).

**Radio Link:** P.B. Band 145 - 155



**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](http://www.csp.dublindiocese.ie)

## Three Patrons

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

## Words of Pope Francis

“Jesus ‘emptied himself, taking the form of a servant’ (Phil 2:7)..... God saved us by serving us. We often think we are the ones who serve God. No, he is the one who freely chose to serve us, for he loved us first. It is difficult to love and not be loved in return. And it is even more difficult to serve if we do not let ourselves be served by God. But – just one question – how did the Lord serve us? by giving his life for us. We are dear to him; we cost him dearly... This astonishes us: God saved us by taking upon himself all the punishment of our sins. Without complaining, but with the humility, patience and obedience of a servant, and purely out of love. And the father upheld Jesus in his service. He did not take away the evil that crushed him, but rather strengthened him in his suffering so that our evil could be overcome by good, by a love that loves to the very end.”

*Homily 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020*

## Feast of the Assumption Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Holy day of Obligation

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August Vigil Mass 5.30pm**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August Mass 10.00am**



# The great mystery of life and death

Michael Commane

Death is shocking. Covid-19 has added a new layer of cruelty to death.

Every day we see and read about Covid-19 restrictions at funerals. Most times it happens to someone else, a person we don't know.

In late July a friend, whom I have known for over 20 years, died. She was a lady to her fingertips. She was 85 and when I first got to know her she was younger than I am now. And that is something that has caused me to pause and think, to think about life and death.

For myriad reasons I have been thinking these last weeks about life and death and all that happens in between.

A 98-year-old Dominican friend said to me that our perception of the world depends on the glasses we wear. A wise comment. A little child sees the world totally differently from my 98-year-old friend. I'm seeing life now differently from when I was in my 20s or 30s.

No matter how kind and caring we are, we can never fully appreciate or understand what's going on in another person's mind, soul and body. But one thing is certain, the kinder, the more helpful, the more understanding we are to people, especially the sick and dying, the more we are making their journey less unbearable.

What's life all about? It's a discussion I often have with a friend of mine. When I ask him what life is about he smiles and says: 'We live and then we die'. It's not really an answer but it does throw a certain perspective on this great mystery.

When we think of all the things we get excited about, the issues we worry over, the times we spend preparing ourselves, the energy involved in collecting. And then we die.

The English Conservative politician Enoch Powell said that all politics ends in failure. Might one add that life ends in failure?

One of the church's great theologians, Thomas Aquinas, on his deathbed said that all he had written was mere straw.

Is belief in God pie in the sky, a clever scam to massage our fear about dying and death?

Dare I admit it, but I spend my life doubting, doubting about everything but as I write this column I am going to say I believe in resurrection and I'll quickly say that I don't believe that my mother and father have been annihilated. Nor do I believe that my friend, whose funeral Mass I celebrated, is annihilated.

I'll leave it at that for now.

## Problems with Parish Office phones and email.

Apologies to all who have been unable to contact the parish office during the last two weeks; our phone line was accidentally cut by local builders.

We have a mobile phone for the Summer months, and if you wish to contact Fr Paul or the parish office, please use this number:

**089 4241185**

Our new email address is:  
[parishofficerathgar@gmail.com](mailto:parishofficerathgar@gmail.com)



We welcome

**Henry Mwale**

who was baptised in Three Patrons  
on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020.

May his parents and  
family find joy in the love, growth,  
and holiness of their child



We extend our sincere sympathies  
to the families and friends of  
**Monica (Vera) Scally**  
whose funeral took place this week,  
and  
**Colm Ó Briain**  
whose memorial service will be held  
on  
Wednesday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm



**Walk and Pray** in the Lough Derg tradition on 16, 18, 22, 26 & 30 August. At times in the 1600's and 1700's when Station Island was closed by the Penal Laws, pilgrims undertook a pilgrimage on the lough shore; walk in their footsteps. Contact 071 9861518 or [info@loughderg.org](mailto:info@loughderg.org). Advance booking essential.

**Youth 2000** Summer E-Festival 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August 2020. See poster on the noticeboard. Register at [www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020](http://www.youth2000.ie/summerfestival2020)

**New for September 2020: Part-time Higher Diploma in Theological Studies via Blended Learning** This one year, part-time Higher Diploma in Theological Studies at St Patrick's College, Maynooth is now offered as a "Blended Learning" programme. Suitable for undergraduate degree (or equivalent), in any discipline the course will run from September to May.  
Closing date: 14th August  
[admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) or 01 7084772



**Donate:** Thank you for all your contributions to date, and your generosity to the parish and to the clergy is very much appreciated. If you would like to continue to contribute to the 1st collection and Share collection in this manner rather than bringing cash to Mass, you can set up these as recurring payments on the website. If you are having any difficulty with Easy Pay please click on the refresh button. Otherwise please contact the office and we will assist you. Contactless payments are a convenient and safe method of donation during this time.