

**Message from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin  
on  
Accord Sunday 2020**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Often in our culture, the Church's teachings on marriage and family life are presented in a negative tone. Yet the basics of family life and love are what so many in our world dream of and seek to realise.

ACCORD exists to support people, old and young, realise this dream. It does not work with a rulebook, but helps people find within themselves the ability to discern, to look at their own attitudes and relationships, and to see them in a different way, in the light of the message of Jesus Christ.

- In primary and secondary schools, ACCORD helps students acquire an understanding of human relationships and sexuality.
- Couples preparing for marriage have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship, their future lives together.
- Accord's counselling service is there to help couples explore, reflect upon and resolve difficulties they may be experiencing.

Over 35,000 people came to ACCORD during 2019: 33,000 students; 1300 couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage; and 1200 couples who were experiencing some challenge in their relationships.

The story of ACCORD Dublin is a success story. Its services continue to be in demand, and feedback from people who have experienced the services indicate that it is both a worthwhile and beneficial experience.

It is for this reason that I ask you to support the work of ACCORD at this annual collection. Life is not always easy; we need to know that there is help along the way. I pray for God's blessing on you and your families.

Diarmuid Martin  
Archbishop of Dublin

**Lenten Series of Talks 2020**

Sr Therese Fitzgerald will speak at all Masses today about her Lenten Series on the subject of 'Finding meaning during Lent'. The talks will take place on the four Wednesday evenings of 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm-9.00pm

There is a list on the table at the back of the Church, and if you are interested in attending the talks, please write your name and phone number, and we will contact you nearer the time with information about which room in the Church will be used.

**Caring for Others** Due to the number of colds and flu around, we would kindly remind our parishioners that during the sign of peace it is fine to simply smile, wave, or bow to other to convey Christ's peace to them.

**Collections 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Offertory Collection:	€1,280
Share Collection:	€1,086

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

**ACCORD Dublin** the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be taken up all Masses today 16<sup>th</sup> February. The Collection for ACCORD will replace the usual Share Collection. ACCORD Dublin offers Marriage Preparation courses, counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships and a Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. ACCORD Dublin needs your support so please give as generously as you can.

**Baptisms** We welcome Donnacha Fitzgerald O'Reilly who joined the family of the Church through Baptism on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Funerals** We offer our sympathies to the families and friends of John (Jack) McSweeney, Germaine Murphy, and Claire Corcoran, whose funerals took place in Three Patrons in February.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am Mass in the Church. 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.

**Gianna Care** provides compassionate, life-affirming, and confidential care during pregnancy. If you would like further information, please see notices at the back of the Church or call 086 0293727

**Envelope System for Collections at Sunday Masses**

We had a wonderful response last year from parishioners to the Parish Finance Committee's initiative regarding the new envelope system for collections at Sunday masses. This scheme started last June and now about one-third of the basket collections comes via the envelopes. This scheme will enable the Parish to claim tax relief money from the Revenue at no extra cost to either you or the diocese (who continues to receive the proceeds from the basket collections). Parishioners who participated in this scheme last year were sent their 2020 envelopes just before Christmas. If you do not have envelopes but would like to participate in this scheme, please provide your name and address via e-mail to our Parish Administrator, Caroline Nolan ([cnolan@rathgarparish.ie](mailto:cnolan@rathgarparish.ie)) and envelopes will be sent to you. To those of you using the envelopes, the Parish Finance Committee would like to convey our sincere gratitude for your support of this important fund-raising initiative for the Parish.