

Sunday 17th May 2020

I'm forever struck by our fragility

Michael Commane

I don't like hearing I have a short fuse. But obviously there must be some truth in it. When people tell me that something or other can't be done, I'm inclined to balk and argue my case in strong terms. The day the Berlin Wall came down I clearly learned, that outside the laws of nature, anything is possible.

Having said that, it is inspiring and heart-warming to observe people behaving in a gentle and cooperative manner.

Last week I was in the AIB in Rathgar. Being advised by staff to comply with social distancing I approached the counter and did my business.

It had been my first time out in many weeks so I think I may have been a little nervous. Completing one form I initially wrote down the wrong numbers. The teller spotted it and kindly brought it to my attention. She was wearing a mask, which had a design on it and was fashionable. I commented to her about it, she smiled and we both had a laugh.

Finished my business, I thanked her and she reciprocated. While unlocking my bicycle I began to think about how friendly the entire experience was. I have thought about it many times over the last few days.

Why has it taken a worldwide pandemic for me, for many of us to realise how we all depend on one another? Only in the last few days a cousin pointed out to me how we all benefit from the talents, skills and goodness of other people.

Recently Pope Francis tweeted: 'During the current crisis, we need good, free journalism that serves all people, especially those who do not have a voice: journalism that is dedicated to the search for truth and which opens paths toward communion and peace.' They are uplifting, positive words. And yet subsequently many people tweeted the nastiest of comments about it. What is it about people? We have the ability to reach to the heavens but we also have the wherewithal to descend to deepest pits of hell.

The thoughtfulness and kindness that I have experienced over the last number of weeks has been life-enhancing. My groceries are delivered on a weekly basis and all done with a smile.

Wise words from 18/19th century English writer and philosopher William Hazlitt: 'Prosperity is a great teacher; adversity is a greater. Possession pampers the mind; privation trains and strengthens it.'

**An Appeal from Rathgar
Society of St Vincent de Paul**

During the current crisis, we are making every effort to continue to support those who need our assistance. We have, of course, experienced an increase in requests for help, and we would very much welcome your support for us and those we assist at this unprecedented time.

There are envelopes at the back of the church, and you can leave your donation in the safe beside the Pieta shrine.

Thank You

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 for this week:

Sunday 12 noon

Monday 11am

Wednesday 11am

Friday 11am

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

Sunday 10.00am

Tuesday 10.00am

Thursday 10.00am

Rosary in Eucharistic Adoration

Pope Francis has asked that, during the Month of May, the Rosary should be recited in the Church right across the World in the context of the coronavirus and its effect

Throughout the month of May Adoration will take place from

6.00pm - 7.00pm

during which the Rosary will be recited,

and this will be available live on the webcam at rathgarparish.ie

Coronavirus, Church and You

DCU's Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education (Director, Dr. Gareth Byrne) has just made an important survey available. As we pass the most severe period of lockdown, it seems a good time to assess how clergy and churchgoers have responded to the profound effect Covid19 has had on Church, and what they think the future might hold. The views of priests, religious and lay people are all welcome. To have your say go to: <https://www.dcu.ie/materdei-centre-for-catholic-education/news/2020/May/Coronavirus-Church-You-Survey.shtml>

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE has launched a national support line for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer any queries. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

ACCORD Dublin Helpline Notice

If you need professional help with relationship issues at this difficult time, you can talk in confidence to an ACCORD Dublin counsellor. Phone support helpline 01 905 9555 or visit www.accorddublin.ie

Covid19 Tech

Covid19 Tech is a group of I.T professionals who have come together from across Ireland to volunteer and offer free tech support to Irish seniors in our communities so they can stay connected with their loved ones during the Covid19 crisis. More information visit: <https://covid19tech.ie/>