

## Longer days, top and bottom

Michael Commane

Donald Trump and Danny Healy-Rae may not believe in climate change. I beg to disagree with them. I'd like to ask both of them have they been cycling a bicycle recently. I'm cycling a long time and I have never seen such rainfall as I have seen in the last six months. Right through the autumn and early winter there was seldom a day when I did not have to use my rain gear. Then again I doubt the two Ds depend on a bicycle to get from A to B.

But the changes that are happening our climate are not having any effect on the 'rising and setting sun'.

My mother died on February 12, 1988. I can still hear and see her talk with excitement at this time of year about the stretch in the day.

She was ecstatic the first day Dad arrived home from work in the daylight. These days it is bright in Dublin after 6pm. Every day, darkness is being pushed back. And mornings too are beginning to succumb to daylight. It's bright these days leaving home at 7am. Maybe my imagination is running away with me. But wasn't it Robert Louis Stevenson who said: 'To travel hopefully is better than to arrive...' And it makes sense. Did you ever notice in the middle of summer how we take the brightness for granted?

Did you know that there is approximately 15 minutes of a difference between sunrise in Dublin and West Kerry? Kerry gets an extra 10 to 15 minutes extra daylight in the evening.

I'm not saying that winter is over but all around us right now there are glimpses of what is to come.

In four weeks we'll be putting the clocks forward. It seems with Brexit we'll be holding on to the practice of changing the clocks in March and October. In winter it will be GMT and in summer GMT plus one. Have you noticed there is a move away from GMT, Greenwich Mean Time, to UCT, Universal Coordinated Time? A good table quiz question – 'How many time zones are there? There are more than 24. And just in case you forget what to do with your clock. Remember it's 'spring forward' and 'fall back'. Then again, most time-pieces these days, change automatically.

My mother's joy at the days getting longer is one of my abiding memories of her. Simple. Wonderful too.

**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 23rd February 2020

Offertory Collection: €1,261  
Share Collection: €1,007

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 on next Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated.

**Divine Mercy Devotions** will take place this First Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm to include Mass, Benediction, Chaplet, and Blessing with the Relic of St Faustina. Devotions will be followed by vigil.

**Christian Meditation** takes place every Thursday morning before 10.00am 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.

**Funeral** We offer our sympathies to the family, friends, and neighbours of Barbara Moore, whose Funeral Mass took place on Wednesday. Barbara will be very much missed by all in Three Patrons.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm-9.00pm in **St Columba's Room in the basement of 49 Rathgar Road.**

**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.

**Finance Committee** has published the Three Patrons' financial statement for the years 2017 and 2018. Copies are available at the back of the Church, and the statement is also published on the website.

**Radio Maria Ireland** is now available via TV on the Saorview Channel 210. Join the growing listenership family for daily Mass, prayer, lively chat, music, testimonies, youth programmes and events.

**Parish Pastoral Council** next meeting takes place this Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm in 49 Rathgar Road.

**FCJ Bicentenary Lecture** will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 from 7.30-9.30pm in Kimmage Parish Hall Whitehall Road. Eircode D12 F785. The title is 'Walking a Climate Pilgrimage!' Contact [susanboyce14@gmail.com](mailto:susanboyce14@gmail.com) for further details.