

## The faith and wisdom of the people

Michael Commane

I'm always saying it's the little things that matter.

You might well laugh but it's one of those little things that keeps me going here in The Three Patrons.

Two years ago in this church, we, the people and I, began a little project. We'll be celebrating our second anniversary this coming Wednesday.

Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday.

On Ash Wednesday two years ago a member of the congregation of the 7.30am Mass spoke for two minutes on the Gospel of the day.

In two years there have only been two occasions where someone did not speak at the Wednesday Mass. One Wednesday was because of the heavy snow we had and on the other occasion the person forgot.

The little project has been a runaway success. Usually the speaker is given the readings of the Mass a week in advance. So they have plenty of time to prepare the two-minute talk. There are two golden rules: it has to be on the readings of the day, preferably the Gospel, and it cannot be longer than two minutes.

The quality of the talks has been extraordinary. The faith of the people, how they articulate it in a vocabulary that makes it so easy to understand, has been a moment of great grace for me.

The willingness of people to speak about their faith in the context of the Gospel of the day is something special to behold.

I get the impression our 07.30 weekday Mass is a community in genuine prayer. Most of us know one another by name. Before and after Mass we regularly chat with one another. If someone is missing for a few days we wonder where they are. No, not as police, but as friends.

Most mornings approximately 30 come here to our 07.30 Mass. Some days up to 50 and hopefully during Lent we will have more.

My hope is that the day will come when everyone who prays at the 07.30 Mass will join in the practice of speaking on Wednesday.

Of course people are free to say ay or nay. But I am inclined to do some nagging.

If you would be interested in talking at our 07.30 Mass, you are most welcome. Pop in some Wednesday and listen to the wisdom and faith.

Our Masses during Lent are at 7.30am and 10am, Monday to Friday and 10am on Saturday.

You are all welcome.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Offertory Collection: €1,082

ACCORD Collection: €1,196

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

**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.

**Funerals** We offer our sympathies to the families and friends of Victor Owens, whose Memorial Mass took place on Wednesday; and Dympna Cullen whose Funeral Mass took place on Saturday.

**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

**Ash Wednesday** Ashes will be distributed at the two morning Masses; throughout the day blessed Ashes will be available near the altar and parishioners are welcome to come begin their Lenten observance. During Lent the first Mass of the morning will be at 7.30am. Trocaire packs are available in the Church and all are welcome to take a Trocaire Box to have at home or in work, to support Trocaire's work in the developing world

**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.

### 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.**

**Day of Prayer** The annual day of prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse will take place on Friday 28 February 2020, which is the first Friday of Lent. The bishops of Ireland have blessed and dedicated candles of atonement for use in their Cathedrals and parishes throughout the country and this will be lit in Three Patrons from 28th February to 1<sup>st</sup> March during the celebration of Mass and other liturgies.

**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.