

The Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar Parish Newsletter

27th December 2020

Parish Priest : Fr Paul Taylor, PP,VF. Ph:4971058
Parish Chaplains: Fr Michael Commame,OP
Fr William King
Parish Administrator: Caroline Nolan
Pastoral Assistant: Cepta Lyons
Parish Pastoral Worker: Jackie Hearne

Parish Office Opening Hours:
Closed from Christmas Eve to Monday 4th January 2021
Phone: 01 4972215

NEW EMAIL: office@rathgarparish.ie

Website: www.rathgarparish.ie.

Radio Link: P.B. Band 145 - 155



Feast of the Holy Family

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.csps.dublindiocese.ie

All Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have now been pre-booked, but please join in on the parish webcam at: rathgarparish.ie

Christmas Eve 10.00am; 4.00pm; 7.00pm.

Christmas Day 8.00am; 10.00am 12noon.

**The church will be closed from
3.00pm on Christmas Eve to
11.30am St Stephen's Day**

**In accordance with Government and Archdiocese guidelines, there will be no public
Masses in Three Patrons
from Christmas Day until further notice.**

**The church will remain open for private prayer
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday from 10.30am - 7.00pm
Tuesday and Thursday 10.30 – 5.00pm
Sunday 11.00am to 7.00pm**

Mass will be celebrated in Three Patrons at the following times:

Sunday: 10.00am

Monday, Wednesday Friday, Saturday: 10.00am

Tuesday and Thursday: 5.30pm

These Masses will be available to view
on the parish webcam at rathgarparish.ie

Beechwood Parish

Saturday Vigil 5.30pm

Sunday (as Gaeilge) 9.00am;

Tuesday, Thursday: 10.00am.

Webcam: Beechwoodparish.com

‘We have tested and tasted too much lover’

Michael Commane

I’ve been asking myself are there people out walking these days who never walked in their lives. And the same goes for cyclists. It seems as if there are bicycle shops springing up all over the land.

On November 29 I walked along the Grand Canal from Harold’s Cross to Baggot Street Bridge and then we returned back to our starting point via Waterloo Road, before I jumped on my bicycle to cycle home. At Baggot Street Bridge I spotted the statue of Patrick Kavanagh. It’s a lovely reminder of a great poet. I read on the plaque that he died on November 30, 1967. The following day it dawned on me that I had bumped into his statue on the day before the anniversary of his death. I was reminded of his poem ‘Advent’, which begins with these two powerful lines:

We have tested and tasted too much, lover-/Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder.

When I was teaching, I always enjoyed discussing those first two lines. I’m wondering how could we really appreciate what it means to be spoiled for choice.

So many of us live extraordinary privileged lives, never knowing what it means to want for anything. But of course the flip side of that is that we can easily lose all sense of wonder.

Before starting out on that walk along the canal I had to cycle to a friend’s house. I had given myself just about enough time but was still a little anxious, so just as I was about to speed up I reminded myself, no, slow down and enjoy the moment that you are in. I did just that and was still on time, arriving at my friend’s house.

I can only speak for myself but I’m wondering, are our lives a relentless rush to the next happening, the next event, the next accomplishment? Is it ever possible to stand still and enjoy the now?

I think I have spent my cycling-life focusing far too much on my destination. I should be spending time and energy enjoying the journey.

And that goes for the Christmas Season too. Tóg go bog é and relax in the now.

Covid has caused mayhem and we all have to be extra vigilant in protecting others and ourselves. We remember those who have suffered from the virus. But even in this stressful time we might give ourselves the chance to live in the now and appreciate it too.



*May the
Miracle of
Christmas
fill your heart
with joy*

Collections on 20th December 2020

First Collection €996

Second Collection €518

Thank you for your support for these collections, and for your contributions to the Parish Fund each month. If you would like to contribute during the current lockdown, please use the envelopes at the back of the church, or the **DONATE** button at rathgarparish.ie. *Thank you*

My Little Buddha

By Barbara Whelan

In the era of smart phones and face-book, to print and frame a photograph is a rare occurrence.

There is a beautiful photograph I did print and frame a few years ago which sits on a shelf in the family room. It is one my daughter took of her son when he was three months old. She had put him lying on top of a small bean bag and then placed him under the Christmas tree. In the photograph he is utterly still, transfixed by the sight of the purple, blue, pink and gold decorations almost within his grasp. His soft, downy hair is barely visible and he appears completely clean-shaven. With fingers interlinked, legs crossed one over the other, he looks like a little Buddha at prayer.

The bean bag is an exquisite shade of azure blue and together with the gaudy colours of the decorations it reminds me of the instructions to Aaron in the Book of Exodus on what to wear in preparation for the priesthood.

“You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue. On its lower hem you shall make pomegranates of blue, purple, and crimson yarns.”

This child, without priestly robes, high office or authority, in a few short years has taught me all I need to know. How to slow down and live at his pace. How to look at a flower and see it as for the first time. How to dance to a track from ‘The Lion King’. How to put down a newspaper and allow myself to be led gently by the hand. How to watch a butterfly on a leaf and then look up in awe and wonder as it takes flight.

And how to fall in love over and over and over again.....

Christmas Dues envelopes are available on the tables in the entrance area for those who did not receive any in the post. Dues are for the support of the priests of the parish and the sick and retired priests of the diocese. As some of the retired priests are now being cared for in nursing homes it is really helpful if everyone could make some contribution to the Dues. Your priests, past and present are deeply grateful for your ongoing support