

Sunday 3rd May 2020

Meeting great people early in the morning.

Michael Commane

With the exception of two years in Rome, this is my first time in 65 years to be so long away from my bicycle.

A few days before the 'Day of Cocoonment', the 07.30 Mass in Rathgar was suspended. Monday March 9 was the last day of the Mass.

Every morning some short few minutes after 7am I left the house, took my bicycle out of the garage, and cycled down to the Three Patrons. It had become something of a ritual with me. It's a short cycle, 1.71 kilometres, taking approximately five minutes, and that's cycling slowly.

All winter I'd waited for that first morning I could cycle down in daylight. By the time March had come brightness was everywhere and no need for a front or back light.

It was a great start to the day, indeed, it was as perfect as one can get in this fragile world of ours. Well, at least that's how I saw it. It was a relaxing quiet few minutes at the start of the day.

I suppose it is somewhat unusual to wheel a bicycle through the church into the sacristy. But's that's what I have been doing for over four years now. I'm surprised Fr Joe never reprimanded me, and so far not a word from Fr Paul. Good.

Mary Garth arrived well in advance of me to have everything ready for 07.30 Mass.

I think it's true to say that over the years most of us have got to know one another. Most mornings Eileen Breslin arrived about the same time as I. We'd always have something to say to one another, most times it would be news about something or other. And there would always be something to laugh about. I have never once seen Eileen in bad form. She always has a smile for me and I hope I have one for her, though I know I have not that calming and positive attitude that she has.

Once the bicycle is parked in the sacristy, Mary and I exchange good mornings and I have made some frivolous comment, I usually head back out to the church and say hello to the people as they arrive. There is always lovely and pleasant banter between us.

Larry Ward, who died on 27th March, was always at the 7.30am Mass until he could simply no longer walk down Rathgar Road to the church. He was in his mid-90s. Larry was a gem.

This is just a tiny glimpse into life in the church of the Three Patrons even before early Mass ever begins.

I can't wait for my walking papers and getting back to cycling down for 7.30 Mass.

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 11.00am

Thursday 11.00am

First Communion 2020

Mass on Sunday 10th May will be offered for this year's First Communion candidates and their families. This would have been the First Communion day for children from Kildare Place, Rathgar Junior, Rathgar National, and Zion Schools.

We know you will all be upset at missing this wonderful celebration, but we want you to know you are in our thoughts, and we ask all our parishioners to remember you in their prayers.

We still do not know when First Communion will happen, but we promise you it will be a wonderful day for you and your families, and during Mass on 10th May a candle will be lit on the altar rails for each one of you.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Jackie Hearne on 087 7422653

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

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*