



**Fr Andrew O'Sullivan, ADM.**  
Email [parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie](mailto:parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie)

**Parish Chaplain Fr David Larkin**  
**Priest in Residence Fr William King**  
Parish Office Manager : Caroline Nolan  
Parish office opening hours:  
Monday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am to 12 noon

The office can be contacted Monday to Friday  
on Telephone (01) 4972215  
Email [parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie](mailto:parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie)  
Website [www.rathgarparish.ie](http://www.rathgarparish.ie)  
The parish Child Safeguarding and Protection  
representatives may be contacted through the  
parish office.

**Mass times in Three Patrons Rathgar**

**Please note 7.30am mass will be suspended until further notice.**

Sunday 10.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.00am

Tuesday and Thursday 5.30pm  
You may access our parish webcam at  
<https://churchmedia.tv/camera/the-church-of-the-3-patrons>

**There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm to 7pm Monday to Saturday.**

**COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE ALONE** manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to support those seeking assistance to the best of our availability. **For the many families that are helped they are faced daily impossible choices, but at this time of year for many these impossible choices get harder, put oil in the tank or get the present on their child's list.**

This year, more than ever, your help is needed to make sure that children and families have what they need to share in the magic of the season.

On Sunday 11th December, St Vincent de Paul will be holding a church collection in the hope of raising funds for people who are struggling this Christmas.

For more information, please contact your local SVP volunteers.

## HOMILY

Attempts to make sense of life are universal. The poet T. S. Elliot expressed the wish to have carved on his gravestone about life: *"I've had the experience, but I've missed the meaning"*.

Today's liturgy constitutes a vision of optimism and hope that can sing of the Lord's wonders and recognise His providence at work in everything that happens.

In the Second Reading, St Paul prays for our growth in goodness, in perfect goodness, a virtue based on abundant understanding and a wealth of experience, a life lived out with a clear conscience and blameless conduct.

Now, that is the sort of image that can strike a couple of different nerves at the same time. It can be a bit discouraging, but it can also be a heartening thing. It means that we never reach a point at which we can say this is all I am ever going to be. I think we human beings take very gladly, even gratefully, to the notion that we do not always have to be only what we have been.

Choose to change. That is the heart of it. Our Advent call to wait for the coming of Christ and the perfection that that will bring into our lives is no passive thing. In the Baptist's words, "prepare the way of the Lord ..." Get the world ready for perfection. The fact is that Christ never forces himself or his goodness on anyone or anything. He will remake in his perfect image only as much of the world as is presented to him. He will recreate only those who ask to be.

It always seems to me that the real heart of our Advent call to prepare the way of the Lord is seen in the difference between the stance of simply waiting for Christ to come with trumpets blaring and take the world back from us, the difference between that and the stance of we ourselves actively gathering the world together, gathering it together, as St Paul says, in abundant understanding and a wealth of experience and giving it back to Christ. I like that phrase 'give the world back'. There are so many challenges in our own lives that we could meet so much more peacefully if we could bring ourselves to see them as opportunities for the giving of gifts rather than as struggles for ownership.

Think of all the demands that are made on each one of us. Our time, our talents, our wealth, our pride, our self-image. Think of how much time we spend agonising over whether or not this or that demand is a reasonable one. Is it fair?

Am I being taken advantage of? Am I giving or doing more than my share, more than the next person?

How much more peacefully, and productively we could meet those demands if we could bring ourselves to realise how foolish such concerns really are, how out of place they are in an exchange of gifts.

That is how we prepare for perfection, that is how we mark the world, as much of it as we can touch, with goodness, with generosity, with love.

Because it really is true. In a profoundly Christian sense, the only things we ever really own are the things we give away.

Fr Andrew O'Sullivan, ADM.

## COVID 19

**Regrettably, the rate of Covid transmission is once again reaching high levels. We would ask that you wear face masks when in the church, sanitise your hands and maintain social distance in order to protect the health of all who come into the church.**

**The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays remains suspended and you are welcome to attend Mass here on weekdays.**