

## Parish Notices

### COLLECTIONS:

Offertory: €1508  
Share: €877  
Envelope: €62

### ADVOCATE COLLECTION— APRIL 13th & 14th 2019

The Sunshine Fund of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul is holding its annual collection outside this Church and all Dublin Churches next weekend. Each year, The Sunshine Fund provides much-needed holidays for approximately 1,000 of Dublin's less fortunate children. The Advocate Collection is the only way the Sunshine Fund can finance these holidays. Please be as generous as you can.

### DO THIS IN MEMORY MASS

Mass for children preparing for the 1st Communion and their parents - Today at 10.00am.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Anne Montgomery** (Bancroft) whose funeral was from this Church during the week.



### LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Monday, 15th April, St. Mary's Priory.  
(No Evening Mass)

### HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Leaflets containing Holy Week Programme of Confessions and Celebrations are available **at the back of the Church**

### WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH THE PHOENIX PARK

Will take place on Good Friday, 19th April. Led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin it will begin at the Wellington Monument at 12.00 midday and proceed to the Papal Cross. All are welcome

### MASS AT DAWN

On Easter Sunday Morning Mass will be celebrated at 6am at the Car Park—Viewing Point on Killakee Road. Please note the change of venue this year. All are welcome.

### BEGGING AND PERSONAL SAFETY

The problem of people begging near the Main Door of our Church continues to be a reality before and after some Masses.

We are sorry that some people who attend our church have experienced intimidation. We are particularly sorry that a lady was attacked and had her bag taken before a Sunday Mass in the recent past. Thank God, she was not seriously injured. We all need to be vigilant and to watch out for each other. We again appeal to people not to give money directly to those who beg. Instead, please continue to support the Priory Homeless Fund, especially on the Sundays of Special Collections.

*Fr. Donal Roche, OP on behalf of the Dominican Community, Tallaght and on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council*

# PRIORY NEWSLETTER

St. Mary's Dominican Priory - Tallaght, Palm Sunday of the Passion (C), 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019

## Cling to the Cross

It would be hard indeed to cling to the cross of Christ if we were also clinging to our own achievements and reputation and virtue. The cross begins to make sense the very moment we reach the end of our own resources. It often happens that people discover its meaning in prison or in war-time, but rather seldom when they are in the lap of luxury. During the Second World War Edith Sitwell wrote

*Still falls the Rain -*

*Dark as the world of man, black as our loss -*

*Blind as the nineteen hundred and forty nails*

*Upon the Cross.*

The cross of Christ, far from being a decoration or just an external badge of identity, is the very substance of our pain and struggle. It tells us there is hope for us even at our very worst; and equally that our best is not good enough: "Nothing in my hand I bring." ...

St Thomas Aquinas was asked where he got his wisdom. "At the foot of the cross of Christ," he replied. There, contemplating the life and death of Jesus, he found a wisdom that went beyond human wisdom. Wisdom is described (Wis 8:1) as "reaching mightily from one end of the earth to the other." In Jesus we see this as no abstract thing, but as a lived experience. He reaches mightily from one end of the human scale to the other, and beyond. He so identified himself with us that St Paul could say he became sin for us: "For our sake God made the sinless one into sin". And at the other end of the



scale: "Through him we have access to the Father".

...Much of our suffering is self-inflicted. Have you heard of the monkey trap? It has a very small opening at the top. When the monkey reaches into it for a piece of fruit, he is unable to pull his hand out again because his fist clutching the fruit is too big. To be free, all he would have to do is open his fist and let go of the fruit. But that is the one thing he is unwilling to do. And so he is caught. He is caught by his own greed.... Aren't we all? Don't we make our life a monkey trap? We trap ourselves with our own greed, fear, lazy habits, addictions, anger... in a word, everything we hold onto.

Of course we are trapped in the other kind of suffering too, the inevitable suffering that is part of every human life...

But whatever our suffering is, self-inflicted or otherwise, it finds its meaning in the cross of Christ. Because Christ is one with the Father he is the beginning and the end, the full range. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Rev. 21:6)

*Fr Donagh O'Shea OP (www.goodnews.ie)*