

WELCOME TO

Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines

Sunday 12 April 2026 Second Sunday of Easter

Parish Office Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 1pm

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Please visit the parish website: www.rathminesparish.ie

www.facebook.com/rathminesparish Webcam: www.rathminesparish.ie



HOMILY

Over these past few weeks, we have taken long and prayerful looks at the core of historical elements from which our creed springs. Christ, who was a real human being, lived in a real place, at a real time, died a real death, and was buried in a real grave.

But because he was also the Son of God, he rose from the dead, and again lived, a real human being in a real place at a real time. No one makes that point more clearly than does Thomas in the Gospel reading. His appearance to the apostles could not be dismissed as wishful thinking or the fruit of an overactive imagination.

But far beyond the bare facts we have given thought, too, to what they mean. Because God himself confronted and experienced human weakness and suffering and death and overcame them, those things can never again be experienced in quite the same way by any human being. God cannot act foolishly, meaninglessly. So, if God suffered and died there must be sense and meaning to suffering and death. They no longer mean the end of happiness and joy nor even the end of life itself.

Now that is a lot to try and think about in a few days. Christianity is not a simple thing. It is as complex as human nature, and as mysterious as divine nature. Christianity seems to demand of us an almost more than human ability to practice any number of virtues.

Patience, hopeful, persistence, forgiveness, charity. And Christianity even demands of us that we practice these virtues in situations in which to do so may very well seem inappropriate, frustrating, even foolish. If all we have to go on is our experience of the world, we can cast about for some time and not come up with too terribly many good reasons for being patient, hopeful, persistent, forgiving and charitable. Somehow, if these virtues are going to be practised with any integrity, we must be able to know more about the world and our life in it than we are able to draw simply from our immediate experience.

And that is really just a complicated way of saying that a Christian, before anything else, must be a believer. Faith ties together all of the complex elements to our Christianity, simplifies them, into one challenge. To accept the fact that it is God's world, that he has visited and changed it to suit his purpose. And because of that, human experience can never be a very reliable yardstick to use in judging good and evil, truth and error. Only God's word can possibly be such a yardstick in his world.

And if we apply that yardstick faithfully then all of the other virtues will flow through our lives much more naturally and easily. As St Peter writes in the Second Reading, "Protect your faith. Treasure it. There is cause for rejoicing there." Fr Andrew

Please join us for Tea & Coffee this and every Sunday after 11am Mass in the Parish Centre.

MASS TIMES RATHMINES CHURCH
Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Sunday 11am, 6pm (Folk)
Tues/Thurs/Fri 10am
Preceded by Morning Prayer - 9.45am
Confessions Sat 5.30pm or by appt

MASS TIMES RATHGAR CHURCH
Saturday 10am
Sunday 9.30am, 12.15pm
Mon/Weds 10am Tues/Thurs 6pm
Eucharistic Adoration
Mon/Weds/Sat 10.30am - 11.30am
Monday to Saturday 6pm - 7pm

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - VOCATIONS SUNDAY 26th APRIL

"Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy."

Pope Leo XIV, Message for the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2026

In his message for this year's World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Leo XIV encourages all of us to create a spirit of faith, prayer, and support,

so that God's call may be heard and generously embraced.

We give thanks that, in the Archdiocese of Dublin, there are currently three seminarians, along with others discerning a call to the priesthood this year. Let us keep them in our prayers and also remember all those considering a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, lay ministry, or family life.

Sunday 5 April 2026 Share Collection €492 First Collection €782

Coeliac Hosts are available at any Mass in Rathmines Church for people with a Coeliac condition.

If you wish to receive a Coeliac host, please present for Communion in the centre aisle at the end of the Communion queue and inform the Priest in order to avoid cross-contamination.

"There is no human experience that God does not redeem." Pope Leo XIV @ Pontifex (Twitter)

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS RATHMINES
youthministry@rathminesparish.com
Instagram @yarathmines
NEXT MEETING
Thurs 23 April 7pm
PHILOSOFORUM
All are welcome

Our sincerest thanks to those who have already returned **Easter Dues** which are an important part of the priest's stipend. Envelopes are available for collection at the back of the Church. We are deeply grateful for your support of Dues always.

Pope's April Prayer Intention

Pope Leo XIV has urged Catholics across the globe to join him in April in praying for priests in crisis. He released the monthly "Pray with the Pope" video on Tuesday. In his prayer, the Pope entrusted all priests into the Father's hands, especially those going through moments of crisis, "when loneliness weighs heavily, when doubt clouds their hearts, and when exhaustion seems stronger than hope".

Rathmines Parish hosts a weekly **Youth Led Holy Hour with Music, Prayer and time for reflection every Tues evening from 7.30pm to 8.30pm** in the church. All welcome.

Parish Priest Fr Andrew O'Sullivan	Parish Secretary Mary Ryan	Parish Office Mon/Tues/Thurs/	The Diocesan Child
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Rathmines Parish Pastoral Council is a faith-based group whose purpose is to lead and serve in the spirit of the Gospel, warmly welcoming and connecting with parishioners and the wider community.
Parish Pastoral Council Members
Fr Andrew O'Sullivan PP, Geraldine McSweeney, Angel Agito, Sr Sofia Cho, Mary McGaughan, Bridget Murphy, Ann Dolan, Joe Costello, Jackie Brennan, Angela Meta and Andrew Moran.

OUR PARISH PARTNERSHIP
Rathmines Rathgar Beechwood Harold's Cross Mount Ar-

THE DUBLIN CONSORT OF VOICES
Concert of the Resurrection
Featuring:
Mass of St Kevin McKeever
The Heavens are Telling Haydn
Tantum Ergo Mozart
And much more!
19 April 2026 at 7pm
Church of the Holy Name
Beechwood Avenue, Ranelagh D06 Y176
Tickets: €26 at the door and Eventbrite

SINGING GOD IN HARD TIMES
International Workshop
on Contemporary Church Music
1st to 3rd May 2026
St Finian's Church
24 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 D02 XP21
Led by renowned international hymnodists and choir directors, this workshop is open to all. Please see the poster at the back of the church to scan the QR code

CATHOLIC FORMATION IN ROME 2026 - 2027
Pontifical Irish College
Are you aged 18-30 seeking to deepen your faith, explore the Catholic tradition and live in community in the heart of Rome?
JOIN US!

- Academic Year of Intentional Discipleship
- Accredited Theology Courses
- Intentional Community Life
- Spiritual Accompaniment
- Cultural Excursions

PLACES ARE LIMITED Get in touch today!
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 30 April 2026
E eoin.mccormack@irishcollege.org www.irishcollege.org
@pontificalirishcollege
Please see our poster at the back of the church

RATHGAR & RATHMINES PARISH PILGRIMAGE
FATIMA
18th to 25th SEPTEMBER 2026
ESCORTED GROUP PILGRIMAGE
(With Marian Pilgrimages)
With guided tour of Aljustrel, Excursion to Eucharistic Miracle of Santarém and Excursion to Balasar
7 Nights from Dublin €995pps
Single Room Supplement €250 (limited availability)
Includes return direct flights Dublin/Lisbon
7 Nights in the 4* Hotel Steyler
Breakfast & Dinner each day
Guided visit of the Sanctuary of Fatima
Daily Mass & Spiritual Activities
Please contact Rathgar Parish Office
E parishoffice@rathgarparish.ie T 01 497 2215
Or Marian Pilgrimages T 01 878 8159
E info@marian.ie www.marian.ie

PRAYER FOR STRENGTH
Every day I need you Lord, but this day especially, I need some extra strength to face whatever is to come. This day more than any other day I need to feel you near me to fortify my courage and to overcome my fear.
By myself, I cannot meet the challenge of the hour ... How much frail human creatures need a Higher Power sustaining them in all that life may bring. And so, dear Lord, hold my trembling hand Be with me Lord this day, to know your guiding hand at work in all, to know your Blessed Presence ever near. Amen.

RCN (Registered Charity Number) 20016166

Welcome! Faillte! Bienvenuti! Bine ati venit! Witajcie! Vitame Vas! Bienvenidos! Soo Dhawow! Dobro pozhalovat! Mubuhay! Bemvindo! Enkwan dehnal! Khush ammaadiio! Isten hozott! Bieny-