

WELCOME TO

Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines

Sunday 17 May 2026 Feast of the Ascension

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

Address: 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6

Telephone: 01 497 1531 Email: secretary@rathminesparish.com

Please visit the parish website: www.rathminesparish.ie

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



HOMILY

There is very little sense of human passion and death in Christ's words in these readings. They are spoken with a calm, regal, self-assurance, spoken as if by one who knows indeed that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to him. There isn't the slightest trace of uncertainty as to what will be the outcome of the mission he has given to his Church. The world will be drawn together under the leadership of Christ. The only question that remains is when will that happen, and how many will choose to be lost before it does.

That had not always been the case, certainly. For a number of years, the Apostles had experienced Christ as a man, very much like themselves. Far from being covered in glory and able to speak and act with the serene certitude of divinity, Christ, in his earthly life, had to depend in a very real way, as do we, on faith, on his ability to trust in the fact that God would somehow give meaning to everything that made up his life. The humanity of Christ is, sometimes a difficult thing for us to truly appreciate. We have trouble realising that in a very real sense Christ, during his earthly life, had no clearer vision of his final glory than do we of our own. The path that led Christ to the mount of the Ascension was as lined with doubt and misgiving and insecurity as is our own. And he countered all of those things in the only way a human being can ... with trust.

With faith that God can see what we cannot, faith that there is a point to what seems pointless in our lives, simply because God says there is. Christ was, after all, like us.

And if he was like us then that also means that we are like him. A life lived in trusting acceptance of the will of the Father led Christ to the glory of God, the fullness of perception and understanding. And so it will for us. That same glorious future is ours, if we are faithful. Just as with the Resurrection, the Ascension of Christ is both a revelation of himself and a promise made to all of his people.

So, the message of the Ascension is a simple one. Faithfulness works. Keep trying. Never quit. Christ's promises will be fulfilled and we, too, shall be covered with the glory of God.

Fr Andrew

Please join us for **Tea & Coffee** this and every Sunday after **11am Mass** in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Also after **10am Mass every Thursday**

Donations for Flowers envelopes are available at the back of the church. All donations are greatly

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

The monthly **St Vincent de Paul Church Gate Collection** will take place next weekend **23rd/24th May** after all masses. Please give generously.

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

Beginning Experience - Separated, Divorced, Widowed Are you coping? Few people can cope alone with the pain and loneliness following the loss of a life partner. Do you find you need more support than family and friends can provide?

Beginning Experience is a peer support group dedicated to helping those who are navigating life following the loss of a life partner. Structured programmes are run by a team of trained facilitators, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced.
The Dublin Beginning Experience Team is planning:
A Three-Day Coping with Life Alone Programme
Saturdays 6th June, 20th June and 27th June 2026 (Advance Booking Essential)

Sunday 10 May 2026 Share Collection €463 First Collection

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS RATHMINES
youthministry
@rathminesparish.com
Instagram
@yarathmines

NEXT MEETING
Thursday 21 May
7pm

LUMINOUS ROSARY NIGHT

In light of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima
Rosary by candlelight

Including hymns, reflections, and the Luminous Mysteries

RATHMINES CHURCH
All are welcome

Prayer for Examinations

If you or someone you know is studying for exams at present, you might like to look at our **Prayer for Examinations** on www.rathmines

Pupils from St Louis Senior Primary School will celebrate the **Sacrament of First Eucharist** next Saturday 23rd May at 11am. Please keep them in your prayers.

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

Coeliac If you wish to receive a

Parish Priest
Fr Andrew O'Sullivan
Tel. 01 497 1531 / 497

Parish Secretary
Mary Ryan
Fri

Parish Office
Mon/Tues/Thurs/

The Diocesan Child contacted confi

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, Sr Sofia Cho, Angel Agito, 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

TALLAGHT CHORAL SOCIETY
Illuminare

Sunday 24th May 2026
7.30pm
Church of St Agnes, Crumlin

Illuminare - E. Hagenberg
Holy Spirit Mass - K.A. Arnesen

Dr Lynsey Callaghan, Conductor
With the Irish Choral Sinfonia

PRAY FOR LIFE NOVENA
Sat 23rd May to Sun 31st May

The **Pray for Life Novena** is an invitation to join thousands of people across Ireland to pray for the protection of human life, from Saturday 23rd May to Sunday 31st May. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life in Ireland.

Visit www.prayforlife.ie for the daily novena prayers and to sign up for daily reminders. See [@prayforlifenovena](https://facebook.com/PrayforLifeNovena) on Instagram. **This is an initiative of the Council for Life of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference.**

"HEART SPEAKS TO Heart" Summer Concert

Newman Vocare Ensemble
Friday 5th June 2026 at 7pm
Newman University Church
With special guests
Loreto College Junior School Choir and University Church Singers
Tickets €15 / Students €10 / Children free
Limited tickets available at the door.
Also available after Masses on 17th, 24th & 31st May.

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