

WELCOME TO**Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines**
Sunday 16 August 2026 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Parish Office Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10am - 1pm****Address: 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6****Telephone: 01 497 1531 Email: secretary@rathminesparish.ie****Please visit the parish website: www.rathminesparish.ie****www.facebook.com/rathminesparish Webcam: www.rathminesparish.ie****HOMILY**

The Gospel reading this weekend gives us a rather strange image of Christ and he even seems, at first, to be outright offensive. Christ is approached by a woman whose daughter is ill. And she, as hundreds of others had done, asked Christ for his help to cure the girl.

But Christ says to the woman, “My concern is not with you. Only with the people of Israel.” But the woman does not give up, she presses her plea. And then Christ says something that seems very harsh. He says, “It would not be right for me to take something that belongs to God’s chosen people, the Jews, the sons and daughters, and throw it to the dogs, to someone like you.”

The woman was a Canaanite, a member of one of the tribes that the Jews had conquered when they took over the promised land. And that ugliest of human emotions, outright prejudice, was the force at work in this Gospel scene. *In the minds* of the apostles, the woman was not one of the chosen people, she was “not one of us,” and as such she had no right to even make a request of God, let alone assume that he would do anything about it. And so Christ’s attitude, the role that he seems to be playing, was really much more directed toward the apostles than it was toward the woman.

By himself being so much a man of his time and culture, by recognising, even verbalising, the prejudicial attitude of his followers, Christ sort of picks up this intolerance and holds it up in front of their faces and then, by his final loving acceptance of the woman, condemns it, contradicts it, begins to turn it around.

But the smug, self-satisfied righteousness of the Hebrews was a deeply ingrained thing, and the controversy between those who believed that Christianity should be a sect of Judaism, such as Peter, at first, and those who believed that the Church must move to the world, open new horizons, be in fact missionary.

Unfortunately, the word “missionary” for most of us, conjures up exotic images of South America or Africa or Asia. It is too bad that the word doesn’t sometimes conjure up images of our own dinner tables, our own living rooms, our schools, our business places, the streets of our own city. There is a great deal of missionary work to be done right in our own community. To be missionary means to find the places where Christ is not known, or not known well, and to bring him there. And doing that is not the kind of missionary work that is done by teaching Christianity. Rather that is the kind of missionary work that is done by being Christian.

Fr Andrew

Our usual **Tea & Coffee after 11am Mass on Sundays** is suspended for the months of July & August. We look forward to seeing you all again in September.

MASS TIMES RATHMINES CHURCH
Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Sunday 11am
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
Eucharistic Adoration
Mon/Weds/Sat 10.30am - 11.30am
Monday to Saturday 6pm - 7pm

ST MARY’S CATHEDRAL

St Mary’s Cathedral will close temporarily from August 17 to allow essential conservation, accessibility and renewal works as part of the next phase in its development as the **Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Dublin**.

Following a competitive procurement process, a “Letter of Intent” has been signed with the main contractor. The construction budget is 17 million euro (excl. VAT). Planning permission was received from Dublin City Council last October.

During the closure period, major diocesan liturgies will take place in St Andrew’s Church, Westland Row. The Palestrina Choir will be based at the College Chapel on the All Hallows Campus of DCU, by kind permission of the University. Parish and sacramental life will continue at St Joseph’s Church, Berkeley Road, where the Cathedral Girls’ Choir will also be based. For further information on the project, including practical arrangements during the temporary closure, please connect with us at

Sunday 9 August 2026 Share Collection €295 First Collection €442

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS RATHMINES
youthministry
@rathminesparish.com
Instagram
[@yarathmines](https://www.instagram.com/yarathmines)
All young adults

SUMMER DUES

Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Your support towards your priests is indispensable and deeply appreciated.

PATHWAYS INTO PASTORAL MINISTRY
24 September 2026 to 13 May 2027
Thursday evenings 7.15pm to 9.15pm

DCU St Patrick’s Campus
Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education,
www.dublindiocese.ie/misionministry/adult-faith
Or contact
peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie (See the poster at the back of the

HAKUNA SUMMER SCHEDULE AUGUST

The Hakuna group, which holds its **Holy Hour** thanks to the hospitality of Rathmines parish, will continue to host evenings on **Tues 18 August** with a talk at 7.15pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, with the opportunity for Confession, moments of silence and music. Everyone is warmly invited to come along, meet others, and help build our parish community.

Coeliac Help

If you wish to receive a

Parish Priest
Fr Andrew O’Sullivan
Tel 01 497 1531 / 407

Parish Secretary
Mary Ryan
Fri

Parish Office
Mon/Tues/Thurs/
Fri

The Dioc

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, Bridget Murphy, Ann Dolan, Joe Costello, Jackie Brennan, Angela Meta, Andrew Moran, Sr Sofia Cho, Angel Agito and Mary McGaughan

OUR PARISH PARTNERSHIP

Rathmines Rathgar Beechwood Harold’s Cross Mount

SUMMER SCHEDULE 2026
RATHMINES & RATHGAR PARISHES

Please note for July and August there will be **No 6pm Mass on Sunday in Rathmines Church**

For July and August there will be **No 6pm Mass on Tuesday & Thursday in Church of the Three Patrons Rathgar.**

Our weekly **tea & coffee after 11am Sunday Mass** will also be suspended for July and August.

Thank you for your understanding and we wish you all a blessed Summer.

Our Summer Timetable is also available on posters at the back of the church and on our website.

Rathmines and Rathgar Parish Partnership
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are indispensable to the life of our parish partnership. All baptised people are called by God to minister. New volunteers are needed and welcomed to sustain, support and strengthen the many services in our parish community.

You are invited to consider sharing your skills and talents by becoming a part of the parish volunteering community.

There are many areas to choose from:
Baptism Team Minister of the Eucharist
Minister of the Word Hospitality Team
Collectors Team
Finance Committee Family Mass Team
Altar Servers Young Adults Choir

If you are interested, please complete an

and inform the priest in order to avoid cross-contamination.

Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality
September 2026 Retreat Offerings
Individually Directed Retreat Mon 7th - Fri 11th Sept (4-day) / Tues 15th - Thurs 24th Sept (8-day) Offering time for personal prayer & reflection,

with daily guidance from a spiritual director
The Reign of God (Residential Retreat)
Sun 27th - Weds 30th Sept
Facilitator: Fr Bernard McGuckian SJ.
For info www.manresa.ie or contact us at reception@manresa.ie or Tel 01 552 9448.

St Joseph Men’s Camino

Every Camino changes us in ways we don’t expect, every man needs one.

Join men from across Ireland on **Sat 12th September** for a 25km pilgrimage through the Boyne Valley, beginning in Drogheda. Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Confessions, fraternity, lunch & dinner, with after-dinner speaker **Fr. Mark Quinn**. Open to men aged 18+. Cost: €65 (Student €55). Registration: www.dominicans.ie/events. Enquiries: op.evangelisation@gmail.com.

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