

WELCOME TO

Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines Sunday 2 August 2026 Eighteenth 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

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges that faces anyone in the process of growing up emotionally is that of learning to trust. It is such a simple sounding word but such an enormously complex reality and integrating trust into our lives in a healthy adult sort of way can be a challenge indeed.

There is a good deal that goes into making up such a trust. It has to include a presumption of goodness in others. It has to include a presumption of ability in others. And it has to include a certain surrender of control over one's own circumstances.

I think it was Gabriel Marcel who once wrote that there is a difference between hope and expectations. Expectations, he said, are in terms of particular projects, particular outcomes, a definite, detailed plan for what should or should not be. And as such, they are necessarily a narrowing thing, they tie us down to too small a world, too small a range of choices.

But hope on the other hand is simply an unconditional trust that God will lead us lovingly, and for the best, in any setting. A trusting hope urges us to set aside, in a sense, our own definition of what is good and bad, acceptable or not, and take on instead God's, even when that is not very clear to us sometimes.

In the Gospel, some of the apostles tell Christ that he had better start to wrap up whatever it was he was doing as the day is coming to an end, and the thousands of people gathered about him are going to need to find themselves something to eat before nightfall. And Christ's response to that is, *"Let's feed them ourselves. Tell the people to sit down."* Now, it is not too difficult to imagine the apostles standing there with polite smiles on their faces, looking at each other and thinking, perhaps not too quietly, *"Now that is about the dumbest idea I ever heard. This simply won't work."* But being respectful men, the most they say is something like, *"Perhaps it has escaped your attention, but we don't have anything to give them. We only have five loaves of bread, and a few fish, and that is really not even enough for the twelve of us."* And Christ responds, *"It doesn't have to make sense. Most of life doesn't. Just do as I ask."*

And of course, it was only after the twelve baskets were filled with the leftovers that the apostles really saw what had happened. It is only in hindsight that we can clearly see God's care for us. That is another reason for suspending judgement now. A Christian has all of eternity to use hindsight. When we finally can look back on our lives and see clearly how God has led us, it will be from the vantage point of God himself.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place next **Friday 7th August (First Friday)** for one hour in the church after mass from 10.30am to

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

Donations for Flowers envelopes are available at the back of the church. All donations are greatly 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, Drumcondra Rd Upper, Dublin 9
For info, please visit: www.dublindiocese.ie/missionministry/adult-faith

Sunday 26 July 2026 Share Collection €300 First Collection €510

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

The **House of Mercy**, opened by **Catherine McAuley** in 1827, is preparing to mark its bicentenary in 2027. Mercy International Centre at 64A Lower Baggot Street, Dublin, has now reopened following nine months of essential works. A rich bicentenary programme is being developed, and The House is now open to visitors for daily guided tours. Advance booking recommended for larger groups. For more info: www.mercyworld.org.

HAKUNA SUMMER SCHEDULE JULY & AUG

The Hakuna group, which holds its **Holy Hour** thanks to the hospitality of Rathmines parish, will host evenings on **Tues 4 & 18 August** beginning with a talk at 7.15pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration, with the opportunity for Confession, moments of silence and music. In addition, on **Friday 14 August**, we will hold a **social gathering in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm**. 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, 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

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 Funeral Team
Hospitality Team Collectors Team
Finance Committee Family Mass Team
Altar Servers Young Adults Choir

If you are interested, please complete an

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**