Welcome! Failte! Benvenuti! Bine ati venit! Karibu! Witajcie! Vitame Vas! Bienvenidos! Soo Dhawow! Dobro pozhalovat! Mubuhay! Bemvindo! Enkwan dehna! Khush ammadiio! Isten hozott!

WELCOME TO
Mary Immaculate, Refuge of Sinners, Rathmines

Sunday 26 July 2026 Seventeenth 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.com**

Please visit the parish website: **www.rathminesparish.ie**

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

HOMILY

Storytelling was a common way of teaching at the time of Christ. Only a very few of the people could read and write, so learning of any kind was largely a matter of memorising vast amounts of information, and the story form, the concrete images made that a lot easier to do.

The images used by Christ this weekend mean to tell us just one thing really about the kingdom, and that is that it is good. It is valuable, we should be striving for it. So much so that we should be willing, if need be, to sacrifice everything to become a part of it.

To seek the kingdom means to accept God's design in place of our own, even without understanding why, even when that design seems not to make life very satisfying but instead seems to make it pretty frustrating.

And it is perfectly true that some of God's design just doesn't seem very satisfying at first glance. When we find ourselves offended, it is hard to see how turning the other cheek could be very satisfying. Commonsense would seem to indicate that finding some way to clobber him back would be infinitely more satisfying. It is hard to see how taking one more job, one more responsibility, could be more satisfying than saying something like, *"I've done more than my fair share. It is time for some of those lazy yokes out there to shoulder some of the burden."* It is hard to see how doing with less materially could possibly be more satisfying than gaining more. It is hard to see how the practice of self-discipline could be more satisfying than giving in to every impulse that is left. And on and on we could go.

The value of the gigantic pearl is self-evident. It can be measured and weighed, and once a person has seen the possibility of owning it, it is not too difficult for him/her to convince himself of the wisdom of sacrificing some smaller goods in order to get hold of the big one. That, after all, is just common sense.

Well, the kingdom of God is not self-evident. It cannot be measured and weighed. It has little to do with common sense. That is why God's invitation is called Revelation, and our response is called forth. A share in the Kingdom of God is not built in a laboratory, where effect always follows cause, where precise technique yields precise results. Rather, that share is pieced together in a very confusing world where the virtues of trust, faithfulness, forgiveness, and love are the only techniques that really and truly work.

We may not understand God's design, but we can and should act on it. And if we do, we have found the pearl of great price in the Gospel. And the satisfaction that comes with being in possession of that final good, the best that life has to offer, will be ours.

Fr Andrew

Please note the **parish office will be closed Mon 27th and Tues 28th July** next, reopening Thurs 30th July.

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

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

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

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 19 July 2026 Share Collection €242 First Collection €451

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS RATHMINES
youthministry
@rathminesparish.com
Instagram
@yarathmines
All young adults aged 18-40 are

Man and Woman, He Created Them
The **Priory Institute one week on-line Summer School** is reflective, informative and interactive and will run from 10 August. The course includes four recorded presentations and one online zoom discussion and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online.
Find out more and register visit:
priorvinstitute.com

HAKUNA SUMMER SCHEDULE JULY & AUG
The Hakuna group, which holds its **Holy Hour** thanks to the hospitality of Rathmines parish, will host the following dates: **Tues 4 & 18 August.** Each evening will begin 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. We look forward to

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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 Dioc
ont

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.

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

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

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