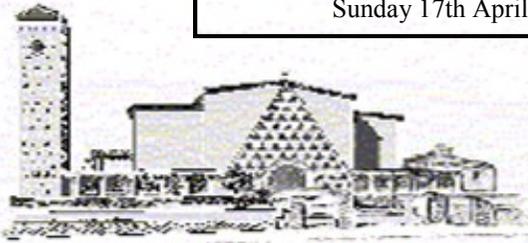


CHURCH OF OUR LADY MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE, Raheny

Sunday 17th April 2016 Fourth Sunday of Easter Cycle C Week 4



Parish : 01 831 3232
Email : info@rahenyparish.ie
www.rahenyparish.ie
Issue No. 929

Jesus a Friend to Women

Large crowds followed Jesus as he travelled the countryside, preaching of God's love and mercy for all. Among those who accompanied him women formed a sizeable group. What was it that attracted them to him?

In the Patriarchal society of Jesus' day, women were regarded as the property of men, servants of their husbands, a temptation to sin, ritually impure and to be kept in the home. A recommended prayer for Jewish men illustrates the low regard in which women were held "*Blessed are you Lord for you have not created me a pagan, or made me a woman or an ignorant person*".

Many of those who followed Jesus would have experienced his mercy and his message of God's love for all especially the downtrodden. Mary of Magdala had probably experienced his healing power, many would have had no male protector, some would have been prostitutes, they were the marginalised of society, Jesus accepted them all. We also know that he had cherished friends, the two sisters Martha and Mary, Mary of Magdala, his mother and those who stood by the cross as he died.

There were also those who sat at his table and shared his meals, for this he was criticised and challenged, to which he replied "*The tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you*". There is little doubt now but that they also sat a table with him for the Passover meal, at which it was customary for women to partake.

Fr. Colm Gallagher

Vocations Sunday - The Collection for the support for the priesthood for our Diocese takes place this weekend and replaces the Share Collection. Vocations Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to promote and pray for vocations .

Next weekend's Church Gate Collection is in aid of the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**.

"Love is the only light which can constantly illuminate a world grown dim"

*Pope Francis via twitter
14th April 2016*

MASS INTENTIONS

Vigil	6.00pm	John Bolger (Month's Mind) Charlie Nowlan (Month's Mind) Charles Foran (Anniv.)
Sun	8.30am	Paddy Emery (Anniv.)
	10.00am	John Cunnion (Anniv.)
	11.30am	Shane O'Hanlon (Anniv.) Ben & Gaye Smith (Anniv.)
Mon.	10.00am	Carmel Kennedy (Rec. Dec'd)
Tues.	10.00am	Mary Shanley (Anniv.) Patrick Shanley (Anniv.)
Wed.	10.00am	Brian Carty (Anniv.)
Thurs.	10.00am	Noreen Stanley (Rec. Dec'd)
Fri.	10.00am	Deceased members of the Boyle family

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of **Arthur Byrne, Ann Clarke, Francis Buckley** and **Mary Mullaly** whose funerals took place this week. We also remember those who died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Next Sunday's Readings : Acts 14:21-27. Ps 144:8-13, R/ cf. v 1. Apoc 21:1-5. Jn 13:31-35

Many thanks for your generous contributions to last weekend's collections.

A meeting of the Liturgy Group will take place in the side chapel at 10.30am on Tuesday 19th April.