

The 5th Sunday of Lent.

‘I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though
he dies he will live, and whoever lives
and believes in me will never die.
Do you believe this?’



Please visit St. Columba's Parish website at www.ionaroadparish.ie
and email your comments, good news
stories and special parish events to info@ionaroadparish.ie

Items for the Parish Link can be e-mailed to parishlink@gmail.com or dropped into the
Parish Office letter-box, marked 'Parish Link', by 5pm on the Thursday of week of publication.
A contact name and phone number is required for each item.
Parish Office Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9.30am. - 12.30pm.
Ph: 8308257 or email saintcolumba@eircom.net

PARISH LINK

Issue No 27/13

Parish of St. Columba

29th March 2020

Dear Parishioners (of the Glasnevin Grouping), as you are aware, we are all still coming to terms with the presence of the Covid-19 virus in our community and the threat it poses to public health and social and business life.

The clergy of the Glasnevin Grouping have decided that in the interest of the health and safety of parishioners, parish staff and volunteers and clergy, we are no longer in a position to provide the public celebration of Mass in our churches at weekends or on weekdays. Mass will be celebrated each weekday morning behind closed doors in Ballygall church, and each evening in St. Alphonsus Monastery. Parishioners can participate in either of these Masses from home via the webcam at 10.00am in Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) and at 5.45pm in St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com).

For the benefit of parishioners who do not have access to the internet, RTÉ will air Mass every weekday on TV at 10.30am from St Eunan's and St Columba's Cathedral, Letterkenny, on RTÉ News Now. RTÉ News Now can be accessed on Saorview (channel 21), Sky (521), Virgin Media (200), Eir (517) as well as via the RTÉ Player, and the RTÉ News Now app.

At weekends, parishioners can follow Mass from their home on the webcam from Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) on Saturday at 6.30pm, St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com) on Sunday at 9.30am and Iona Road (www.ionaroadparish.ie) on Sunday at 11.00am. Alternatively they can follow Mass on RTE radio or television. The Churches in the Glasnevin Grouping will remain open for private prayer from Monday-Saturday.

A special Holy Hour, including Eucharistic adoration, music and reflections, led by priests or lay ministers from the Glasnevin Grouping, will be broadcast each Wednesday evening from Ballygall church via the webcam (www.ballygallparish.ie) All parish meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Not being able to unite together in our churches for the celebration of the Eucharist is a real deprivation for all of us. Perhaps we can view it as our Lenten fast. Unable to receive the Eucharist for the time being, we still share a 'spiritual communion' with Christ and with one another by assisting at Mass via the webcam or on television. It is also an opportunity to pray for those affected by the Covid-19 virus and for all the health care workers who are working flat out to care for those who are sick.

We remain available to assist parishioners at all times, and parish offices can be contacted during normal office hours by telephone or email.

The priests of the Glasnevin Grouping hold all our parishioners in our prayers at this difficult time, and we ask that you remember us and our parish teams in your prayers too.

Fr. Richard Sheehy, Fr. Paddy Jones.

Mission Statement

St. Columba's parish is a vibrant and welcoming community of faith, continuing to give practical witness to the Good News of Christ, through worship and reflection, and through Christian service to the community.

Reflection:

We hear this Sunday's Gospel in a way that we probably never have before. In the context of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has already claimed the lives of thousands of people across the world, how do we receive Jesus words to his disciples: *'This sickness will not end in death but in God's glory'*? With so much of what we have come to know as normal social and economic life ground to a halt, and so many people suffering as a result, and with heightened anxiety around getting the virus or transmitting it to someone else, where do we find hope, where do we see signs of God's 'glory'? Nature is certainly playing a role: the unfolding spring and the good weather encourage us to get out and enjoy the fresh air and colour (while maintaining physical distancing), and lift our spirits. The thoughtfulness of people checking in on their neighbours, the playfulness and creativity of others, the willingness of most people to abide by the current restrictions for the sake of the Common Good all renew our faith in human goodness and solidarity and remind us that the God of Christian hope is with us, helping us to find light in the darkness and to overcome fear with trust. These unfamiliar times invite us to discover our own inner resources and particularly the gift of prayer. The inability to gather in our church does not prevent us from being united in prayer with Christ, with one another, and with all God's people. *'This sickness will not end in death but in God's glory'*.

At this time of great danger, we ask the Lord to grace us with his loving protection. May the Lord be with us in our anxieties and fears, give us courage and a sense of being together. Fr Richard joins me as we pray and take great care of ourselves and one another and face together this critical time. Fr Paddy

ALONE COVID-19 Helpline

ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Ireland. Professional staff will be available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line will be open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling 0818 222 024, and hours may be extended to meet the demand.

Regular parish meetings are cancelled until further notice.

Baptisms and weddings are postponed for the time being.

Funeral Services continue to take place but with only immediate family and very close friends present. Other people are invited to participate in the Funeral Mass via webcam. A memorial Mass can be arranged at a later date when the present health crisis is passed.

Remember that official summertime begins this Sunday 30th March!

Clocks should be put forward one hour before bedtime on Saturday night.

The following are links to resources for praying at home, including an online Lenten retreat: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> and: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/index.php>.

Prayer resources from the Diocesan Liturgy Office can be found at: <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/prayer-resources-for-use-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Prayer for our protection

We ask for prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus. Placing all our trust in the Lord, and asking Our Lady to intercede for us, we invite everyone to pray these prayers:

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,

that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer.

Amen.

