

An Evening of Celtic Organ and Tenor Music  
will take place in Our Lady of Victories Church, Ballymun Road  
on Friday, 28 February at 7.30.

The performers are  
David O'Shea (organ) and Aaron Cawley (tenor).  
Full information on [www.olv.ie](http://www.olv.ie)

Coffee Morning for the care of Pádraig Schaler  
16th February 2014 12 - 3pm @  
The O'Connor's  
26 Iona Drive,  
Glasnevin,  
Dublin 9.



Pádraig Schaler, a vibrant young Trinity student in his early twenties from Iona Road, was in an accident during the summer while cycling in America. This has led to him being in a coma since. He spent some time in hospital before being flown home to Beaumont Hospital. He is now in a neuro-rehab facility in Hamburg, Germany. Please come along on Sunday 16th for some cake and coffee if you can at all to support his care. If you cannot make it be sure to say a prayer for his speedy recovery.

#### 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.

#### [parishlink@gmail.com](mailto:parishlink@gmail.com)

Items for the Parish Link should be marked 'Parish Link' and dropped into the Parish Office letter-box, or emailed to above address,

Items should be posted by 5.00pm on the Thursday of the week of publication.

A Contact name and telephone number is required for each item.

Parish Link Contacts: Trish 8302851/Ann 8309983

#### Parish Office Opening Times and contact:

Wednesday Thursday and Friday 09.30a.m. - 12.30pm  
Ph. 8308257 or email: [saintcolumba@eircom.net](mailto:saintcolumba@eircom.net)

# PARISH LINK

Issue No 20/50

Parish of St.Columba

9th February 2014

## Message of the Holy Father on the Occasion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Day of the Sick (11<sup>th</sup> February 2014)

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the occasion of the Twenty-second World Day of the Sick, whose theme this year is Faith and Charity: "We Ought to Lay Down Our Lives for One Another" (1 Jn 3:16), I turn in a special way to the sick and all those who provide them with assistance and care. The Church recognizes in you, the sick, a special presence of the suffering Christ. It is true. At the side of – and indeed within – our suffering, is the suffering of Christ; he bears its burden with us and he reveals its meaning. When the Son of God mounted the cross, he destroyed the solitude of suffering and illuminated its darkness. We thus find ourselves before the mystery of God's love for us, which gives us hope and courage: hope, because in the plan of God's love even the night of pain yields to the light of Easter, and courage, which enables us to confront every hardship in his company, in union with him.

The incarnate Son of God did not remove illness and suffering from human experience but by taking them upon himself he transformed them and gave them new meaning. New meaning because they no longer have the last word which, instead, is new and abundant life; transformed them, because in union with Christ they need no longer be negative but positive. Jesus is the way, and with his Spirit we can follow him. Just as the Father gave us the Son out of love, and the Son gave himself to us out of the same love, so we too can love others as God has loved us, giving our lives for one another. Faith in God becomes goodness, faith in the crucified Christ becomes the strength to love to the end, even our enemies. The proof of authentic faith in Christ is self-giving and the spreading of love for our neighbours, especially for those who do not merit it, for the suffering and for the marginalized.

By virtue of Baptism and Confirmation we are called to conform ourselves to Christ, who is the Good Samaritan for all who suffer. "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another" (1 Jn 3:16). When we draw near with tender love to those in need of care, we bring hope and God's smile to the contradictions of the world. When generous devotion to others becomes the hallmark of our actions, we give way to the Heart of Christ and bask in its warmth, and thus contribute to the coming of God's Kingdom.

### **A Note from Fr Paddy**

After 17 years living in Maynooth College (and the previous years in the colleges in Carlow and Clonliffe),  
moving in takes a little time!

But it is happening and very much helped by the  
warmth of the welcome.

I have met so many who are involved and many not involved or  
should I say, not yet? I hope to continue to do so, informally and  
formally over the coming weeks.

Make yourself known, even if I forget, just make yourself known  
again. These weeks are the time for me to learn what is happening,  
not a time for changes.

They can come in time as we agree on the journey forward.

Lectio Divina will continue every Thursday morning @ 9:10am  
& Sunday morning @ 10:30am in the Church.

### **BOOK CENTRE**

Confirmation cards & candles  
available this week in the  
book centre

We also have a selection of  
St. Patrick's Day cards in stock.  
Call in before or after mass this  
week-end to see our full  
range of items.

### **2013 - The Year of Faith**

A booklet  
"2013 - The Year of Faith"  
is available in the Bookshop  
which gives details of some of  
the events in the  
parish in 2013.  
It costs €1 - all proceeds go via  
the Bookshop account, to  
parish funds.

Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall  
Special Mass of Blessing and Anointing for the Sick

### **World Day of the Sick**

Sunday 9th February @ 3 pm  
All Are Welcome

The **ANNUAL COLLECTION OF ACCORD**,  
The Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family,  
will be made at all Masses on the weekend of **15/16th Feb 2014**  
The collection for Accord will replace the usual Share Collection

### **Parish Mass Times and Mass Intentions for this Week**

Sat. 8th 6.00pm Mary & Pat Dempsey (A)  
Sun 9th 11.00am Johanna O'Brien (A)  
Thur 13th 9.30am T.C. McDermott (A)

Sunday morning mass @ 9.45am  
in Glasnevin Cemetery (Finglas Rd)

Mass Times in the Monastery of St. Alphonsus, Iona Road :  
Monday to Friday @ 5.45 p.m.  
Saturday morning @ 9.30 a.m. and  
Sunday morning at 9.30am.

Baptisms. For all baptisms please contact Sr. Bridget  
through the Parish Office @ 830 8257 or call into the Sacristy.

**Parish Contributions** for the week commencing Feb 2nd 2014 = €442.80  
Many Thanks

Iona Active Retirement  
Monday 10th February  
Monthly meeting at 10.15 a.m. in the Annex

### **MESSAGE FROM FR. JIM**

*Please keep me in your prayers as I leave on Tuesday for Mepkin.  
I will remember you all too.  
I will be happy to receive letters at:*

*Mepkin Abbey,  
1098 Mepkin Abbey Road,  
Moncks Corner,  
South Carolina 294614796  
U.S.A.*

Prayer Meeting every Tuesday @ 8pm in 7 David Road.  
All welcome. Contact: Clare Conlan 8305271