

Reflection: There is a lot of anxiety around at the present moment, a lot of it caused by uncertainty. We are so used to setting dates in our calendars and diaries for events, certain that they will come to pass on that date. Coronavirus has upset all that and revealed to us that we are not as in control of events as we like to think. Climate change, itself caused by human behaviour, has been trying to warn us of the same fact, though not yet as suddenly or dramatically as the Coronavirus. Weddings, Baptisms, First Communions have all had to be postponed, and now students don't know if they will be sitting the Leaving Cert this year or not. Other people are awaiting results of a test or the rescheduling of an appointment for a medical procedure which has been postponed. The not-knowing seems to be the worst aspect, and this is what gives rise to so much anxiety and

distress. Maybe in such situations, all we can do is hand over our powerlessness to God and entrust our concerns to him. 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. (John 14:1)

In today's Second Reading, St. Peter reminds us that, at a time of confusion and darkness for many, believers have a profound dignity and a call to be the light of God's compassion and solidarity for those who are suffering. 'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God, who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.'



First Communions

May is usually a busy month in the life of the parish as we celebrate First Holy Communion for the boys and girls from the St Columba's girls, St Vincent's Boys and Lindsay Rd school. We share their disappointment, and that of their families, that for the moment these celebration have had to be put on hold but we look forward to the time when both schools and churches will reopen and we will be able to set new dates for these celebrations.

Reopening of church for private prayer?

As the first phase of the government reopening of the country begins on Monday 18th May, and conscious that everyone is now permitted to take a daily walk, we hope to begin reopening the church on a limited basis so that parishioners can drop in briefly to say a prayer or light a candle.

Contributing to the Parish

We are very grateful to parishioners who have dropped in their weekly envelopes to the parish office letter box over the past couple of weeks. Indeed, even though we did not send out Easter Offering (Dues) envelopes this year, quite a few parishioners have sent or dropped them in. We are most grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

In these uncertain times, we are conscious of the difficulties facing many families and are very grateful for whatever parishioners and visitors are able to donate. Many thanks for your continued generous support.

We remember in our prayers those who have died during the past week: Margaret Rita O'Neill, Marguerite Rd. and Brigid McKeever Lindsay Road., May they rest in peace

PARISH LINK



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Parish of St. Columba

10th May 2020



I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

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.*

The Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker May 1st brings Gabriel Moran's statement, "No matter how fulfilling a job is one still needs other work in life," to mind; with characteristic care, he invites us to distinguish occupation and reward from contribution and purpose. As we come to this year's feast, many workers find themselves reluctantly at rest; for some, livelihood is under threat, for others it is identity that is tested. We remember Saint Joseph not for any fine joinery or clever construction but because of the character of his life that can be

discerned in his humble commitment; his job shaped him and made him ready for the work God asked of him. We might pray that workers know that what they give to the world is more than productivity, as these days invite many to do what they can instead of all they want. God meets us in both. May Saint Joseph bless us this year with his characteristic patience, wisdom and strength - that we may know how to wait and be ready to act, that we may know that we are more than what we do. A Íosef, a bhí mar tacaíocht buan don teaghlach naofa, cothaigh sinn anois.

Piaras Jackson SJ Director Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality

From Wednesday 6th May, Michael Sullivan, Near FM/OPC North Central Area, and myself hope to have a programme go out on Near FM (TIME TO BE CONFIRMED)

Cocoontunes!

The idea is to try include a lot of older people who perhaps don't have access to modern technology with a radio programme for those who are cocooning, with music from the 50s 60s and 70s. We are hoping people will engage and send in requests for music in relation to 'special memories' from over the years. We have heard and seen over the last number of weeks the people who really do feel very isolated, not being able to visit family and friends is extremely hard for them. A lot of this age group will also remember when the 'radio' was the only means of broadcasting and sharing of information and still has the ability to reach across all borders and can be a valuable source of news in such frightening times. We will be keeping everybody updated with the latest information in relation to COVID19 and include some health exercising tips too! nearcocoontunes@gmail.com This programme can be accessed at 90.3 on your radio, the email; nearcocoontunes@gmail.com

There are difficult moments in life but with hope the soul goes forward and look ahead to what awaits us-

Pope Francis



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. **Ph: 8308257 or email saintcolumba@eircom.net**

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

Pope Francis offers us the following Prayer to recite at the end of the Rosary.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment. Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and



continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. **Amen.**



Visits of the bereaved to cemeteries:

Glasnevin cemetery is now open to the public via the pedestrian entrance only at the junction with Slaney Road from 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Monday through to Saturday to facilitate grave visits only. Pedestrian access to the St. Paul's section will also be available during these times. Pedestrian access is also available in Dardistown, Newlands, and Palmerstown cemeteries for grave visits only. To comply with Government guidelines, it is requested that only people who live within a 5 km radius of Glasnevin Trust cemeteries visit graves during this phase of restrictions.