

Dear parishioner, as you are aware, due to government restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not been able to celebrate a public Mass in our church for some weeks. However, parishioners can participate at weekday Mass via webcam at 10.00am in Ballygall (www.ballygallparish.ie) or at 5.45pm in St. Alphonsus Monastery (www.rednuns.com); and on Saturday at 6.30pm from Ballygall, and on Sunday at 11.00am from Iona Road church (www.ionaroadparish.ie). A Holy Hour, with Eucharistic adoration, is broadcast each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from Ballygall church (www.ballygallparish.ie)



Website

Revamped Parish website

We are excited to announce that we will be launching our new-look Iona Road parish website, in the coming week.

Many thanks to Maurice Grehan, who has delivered us a website that is more attractive, easier for parishioners to navigate and particularly for our parish team to upload information and other resources for prayer and reflection.

Fr. Richard

May is the month of Mary.

It is traditional in the Catholic Church to honour Our Blessed Lady during the month of May. Pope Francis encourages us to begin or restart the practice of saying the Rosary or the Angelus at home, perhaps as a family, during the month of May, particularly at this time of pandemic.

COTRONAVIRUS HELPLINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

0818 222 024

If you have concerns or queries about Covid-19 call ALONE's dedicated support line everyday, 8.00am - 8.00pm

Our Lady of Dolour's Parish Webcam comes on stream

As you are aware, due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we have not been able to celebrate a public Mass in church for some weeks. However, we are excited to announce that we will be launching our new webcam facility this Sunday 17th May with the celebration of Mass at 12 noon. The webcam facility, which can be accessed via the parish website (www.glasnevinparish.ie) will enable parishioners living at home or abroad to participate online at Mass. From Sunday and for the immediate future, Mass will be streamed via webcam at 12 noon each Sunday. If you miss the live streaming, you can still attend the Mass online over the following 24 hour period. **Mass will also be streamed each Sunday at 10.00am from Ballymun Road and at 11.00am from Iona Road church. Mass will be broadcast each weekday morning (except Thursday) at 11.00am from Our Lady of Dolours church and at 10.00am from Ballygall and Ballymun Road churches.** A Holy Hour, with Eucharistic adoration, is broadcast each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm from Ballygall church (www.ballygallparish.ie)

PARISH LINK



Issue No 27/19

Parish of St. Columba

17th May 2020

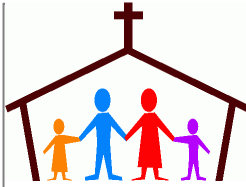
Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.



6th Sunday of Easter

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.



Contributing to the Parish

We are very grateful to the parishioners who have either posted contributions to the parish or

dropped in their weekly envelopes through the sacristy/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. A number of other parishioners have enquired how they might continue to contribute to the church in the absence of being able to physically attend Mass at this time. Although reluctant to actively seek contributions to the various collections because of the financial hit many parishioners may have taken over the past few weeks, we recognise that since the current lockdown doesn't look like ending

in the near future, and very little income is coming in for either the parish or the priests, we need to offer parishioners some suggestions.

Perhaps the simplest thing to do, and provided that you are in a position to do so, is to put aside each week whatever you might normally contribute to any of the collections, so that these can be brought to the church when normal service has resumed. Another possibility is to send in a monthly or quarterly cheque for whatever the equivalent amount might be. We will shortly have a 'Donate' button on the front page of our parish website. Payzone are collaborating with the Dublin diocese to make a donate button available on parish websites. It is an easy and safe method of contributing and enables the parish to keep a record of your donation. In these uncertain times, we are very grateful for whatever parishioners and visitors are able to donate. Many thanks for your continued generous support.

Fr. Richard

A chara,

The cooler weather slows us down and brings us into a reflective space. As we speak of roadmaps, we think of an end-line and become anxious about what change means and what we want to accomplish once 'all goes back to normal'. However another way to think of this is not as a roadmap, but as a Journey of Care. Now we are invited to consider how we reintroduce some 'normal' services, but as Christians our focus remains not on our personal needs but on the most vulnerable. I think of our many different pilgrimages to Lourdes, where we placed the marginalised at the centre of all prayer and celebration. As the world rushes to return to business, our call might be to keep the vulnerable at the heart of our choices, so that all life is valued and loved. This will take patience and compassion and so we bring the Journey of Care to our God in prayer. We will need everyone and all our prayers on this new journey of hope together

Noirin



"Faith is not a light that scatters all our darkness but a lamp that guides our steps in the night." - 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

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 various schools in our parish. We share their disappointment, and that of their families, that for the moment these celebration have had to be put on hold. Below is part of the text of a letter sent by Fr. Richard and Fr. Paddy to the boys and girls:

'Dear Boys and Girls, and Parents, we know that you have been looking forward to this happy occasion, both in school and through the monthly Do This in Memory Mass in the parish. Unfortunately, because of the Corona virus, churches, like schools, are closed, and it is not possible for us to celebrate your First Holy Communion this Saturday. We are all disappointed, but it's important to remember that our celebration of First Communion is only postponed, not cancelled. We cannot say for certain when First Communion will take place but will let you know as soon as this seems possible. In the meantime we want to thank you for being so understanding of the need for us all to make this sacrifice for the sake of the health of all the people in our country. Please remember to pray every day, asking God to look after all those who are sick, and those who are caring for them. May God bless you, and keep you and your family safe and well.' In the meantime, together with the Principals and teachers of St. Columba's Girls and St. Vincent's Boys Primary Schools we are planning a 'virtual' Do this in Memory Mass from Iona Road church on Saturday 23rd May, in which the First Communion candidates can participate as part of their continued preparation.



Good News

St. Columba's and St. Vincent's will be **Co-Educational schools starting in September 2020.**

For further information please contact:

principal@ionaroadschool.ie and office@vincentsprimary.com.



Visits of the bereaved to 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 - Saturday to facilitate grave visits only. Pedestrian access to the St. Paul's section will also be available during these times.

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