

This Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, a special day of prayer for vocations to the work of service in the Church. There is broad agreement that our political leaders, assisted by their medical advisors, have provided good leadership during the present pandemic crisis. Right from the beginning they have been honest about the threat facing us and clear and decisive about the actions needed to combat the virus. Such leadership creates trust and encourages the cooperation with the restrictions which we have witnessed in our communities. Pope Francis has also provided inspiring and prophetic leadership at this time of trial, anxiety and trauma for

many. Such leadership provides comfort, encouragement and hope at a time of uncertainty about the future. We rely on such guidance and assurance that God is with us at this difficult time. We are also called to give leadership: to show that faith makes a difference in our lives and gives us hope and inspiration to reach out in compassion to our brothers and sisters in need, whether near or far.

Fr. Richard



Vocations Sunday

“The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice.”

On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. Do you hear the voice of the Lord, the Good Shepherd calling you to a particular way of life?

If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as a priest or in the consecrated life, contact the National Vocations Office, email: info@vocations.ie or your local Diocesan Vocations Director.



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

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. “Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at

Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. **Amen.**

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin

PARISH LINK

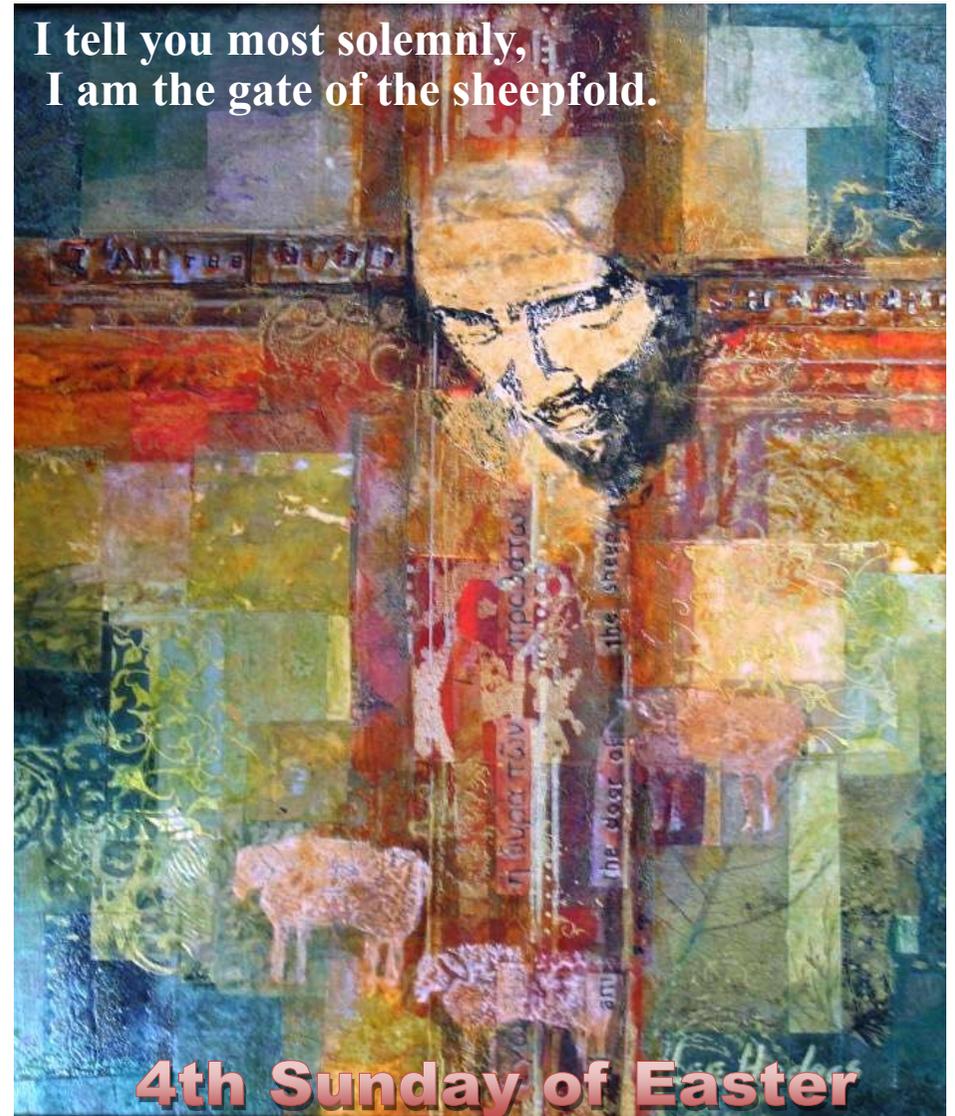


Issue No 27/18

Parish of St. Columba

5th May 2020

**I tell you most solemnly,
I am the gate of the sheepfold.**



4th 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.*

Press the Pause Button

The current public health crisis has given rise to understandable anxiety. While mass gatherings are not possible we can remain united in prayer, music and reflection. Here is a possible 8 step programme to follow or adapt to your own situation. The music suggestions are taken from the Emmanuel 2020 Programme for second level schools in the Archdiocese of Dublin. They are available on iTunes and Spotify. *Slow Me Down Lord (Bernadette Egan)* will set the scene for this time of reflection.

1. Sit on a step for five minutes. Bring to mind a time when you were less than Christian in your dealings with others. 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:35) *They'll Know We Are Christians (Peter Scholte)*

2. Become a hermit for a while. Take an hour off from your mobile phone or internet to be quiet with your own thoughts. Protect this 'godly' time with a wall of stillness

3. Try to notice when your mind is taken over by cruel or vengeful thoughts about others. Every time you wash your hands consciously let go of these thoughts. *The Face Of Peace (Sam Shortall)*

4. If going out for a walk put on the hat of thoughtfulness, the cloak of charity and shoes of goodness. Open yourself to an awareness of the presence of Christ in each other. *You The Christ (Ian Callanan)*

5. God's mercy is poured out freely on us. Every time you pour a glass of water, tea or milk simply stop and say 'Lord have mercy'.

6. The word humility has a root in the Latin for earth or ground. Every time you stand up or put your feet on the floor pray for humility. Become 'grounded' and aware of the source of your blessings. *Blinded By Your Grace (Thornycroft-Smith, Owuo and Emenike)*
Lord Have Mercy thoughtfulness charity

7. When you take a drink pause and listen for the voice of Jesus. 'Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?' (Matthew 20:22) *Gospel Plow (Trad: Rory Cooney)*

8. Patience is an important survival tool to have under our belt these days when we are doing our best to be safe and to protect others in our family and community. 'Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability— and that it may take a very long time.'
(Pierre Teilhard de Chardin S.J.) *Keep Me Safe O God (Ian Callanan)* *Be Nice (Sarah Hart)* is a good motto to have at all times. Stay safe.

Prepared by the Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre



Having faith does not mean having no difficulties, but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone - Pope Francis

ALONE COVID-19 Helpline have a national support line for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 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.

Support Services for Older and Vulnerable People These Dedicated helplines are focused specifically on ensuring that the cocooning elderly, vulnerable members of the community or those living alone can access deliveries of groceries, medicine and fuels. Please try to ensure any vulnerable or elderly people in your parish help are aware of these services. **Dublin City Council Helpline 01-2228555**
Email -covidsupport@dublincity.ie

TROCAIRE "Until it is safe, until further instructions, please hold onto your Lent Box. Keeping it safe will help keep you safe too,"
Working for a Just World

In the meantime, those who are in a position to do so are being asked to make an online donation to help Trócaire reduce the impact of the new coronavirus outbreak on people in the Third World.

Contributing to the Parish

We are very grateful to those 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. We have been reluctant to actively seek contributions to the various collections because of the financial hit many parishioners may have taken over the past few weeks. However, 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 feel 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. In these very uncertain times, we are conscious of the difficulties facing many families and don't wish to add to the pressure on anyone. We are very grateful for whatever parishioners are able to donate. Many thanks for your continued generous support.

Fr. Richard Sheehy

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