

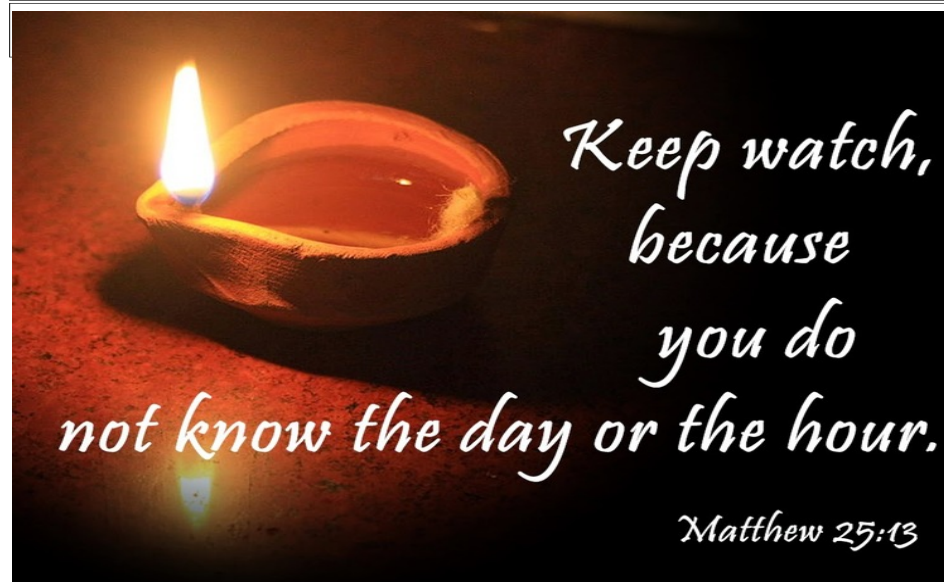
### Reflection

Many of us, particularly in the northern hemisphere, associate the month of November with darkness. With the change of hour at the October holiday weekend, we find ourselves facing shorter days, and longer evenings. This year is particularly challenging, as we struggle to get on top of the coronavirus pandemic and face the uncertainty around the outcome of Brexit negotiations. It is an anxious time, not only for healthcare workers and those who may be vulnerable for health reasons, but also for those whose livelihoods are at risk. Twice in the past few days one of the US presidential candidates has called for '*patience*'. The parable in the Gospel talks of being alert, having our lamps lit. Maybe that begins with recognising the daily signs of light and hope: the bright November sunshine, the beautiful, lingering autumnal colours, a walk in the Botanic gardens or local park; sharing a socially distanced cup of coffee outdoors; an unexpected gesture of kindness; the indications that people's observing of the current restrictions are having a positive effect on the infection rate; saying a prayer of thanksgiving at the end of the day. It also involves bearing the light of hope and joy to others through a prayer, a phone call, a card, a thoughtful gift left at the door. However extraordinary the present circumstances, everything we do, every outreach in thought or deed, is an opportunity to encounter the Lord, who journeys with us. As the First Reading reminds us: *'Wisdom herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them'*.

# PARISH



# LINK



Society of St Vincent de Paul

VDeP although we are unable to have our monthly collection. It is possible to donate. There are envelopes at end of church. Donations can be dropped into 87 Iona road Mile Buichas

Also 12 Dec is Annual Appeal Launch.

Items for the Parish Link can be e-mailed to [parishlink@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:saintcolumba@eircom.net)

Please visit St. Columba's Parish website at [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie) and email your comments, good news stories and special parish events to [info@ionaroadparish.ie](mailto:info@ionaroadparish.ie)

### Thought for your day...

While the parable has clear end-of-time applications, it can also be applied to any moment of grace. It reminds us that moments of grace come unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to receive them. Grace can also be disturbing. We can be coasting along in life and suddenly an opportunity or a graced moment arrives and we are shaken out of our routine in order to respond. We may be tempted to judge the wise virgins as being selfish for not sharing with the others, but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that there are some things that other people cannot provide for us. We have to acquire them ourselves.

**PRAYER** ..Almighty and ever-living God, remove the obstacles that stand in our way, that unimpeded in body and soul, we may freely devote ourselves to your service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

**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 following are the current Mass times available in the Glasnevin Grouping of Parish**

Church	Vigil:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Iona Road	18.00	11.00	10.30	****	10.30	10.30	10.30	****
St Alphonsus	****	9.30	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	9.30
Glasnevin	18.30	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	****	10.00	10.00
Ballygall	18.30	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Drumcondra	18.00	10.30	****	10.00	****	10.00	****	****
Ballymun Rd.	****	12:00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	****	10.00

**The website for each of the churches webcam is the following**  
 Iona Rd. webcam ([www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie))  
 Monastery of St Alphonsus webcam ([www.rednuns.com](http://www.rednuns.com))  
 Our Lady of Victories Ballymun Rd webcam ([www.olv.ie](http://www.olv.ie))  
 Our Lady of Dolour's Glasnevin webcam ([www.glasnevinparish.ie](http://www.glasnevinparish.ie))  
 Out Mother of Divine Grace Ballygall webcam ([www.ballygallparish.ie](http://www.ballygallparish.ie))

Each Thursday at a weekly Zoom meeting, 7:30pm to 8:15pm, we read and discuss the Gospel for the following Sunday. Anyone wishing to participate is asked to contact the Parish office or email Fr. Richard at richardesheey@gmail.com for the meeting ID and password. Open to all and all welcome.



**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People**  
**ALONE** manage 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). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary.  
**The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.**  
**SENIOR LINE** is Ireland's national confidential service for older people. We are open every day of the year from 10am to 10pm. We are older people too, trained to listen and support. We would love to hear from you. **Freefone 1800 80 45 91**

**Weekly Donations to Parish & Diocese**  
 Our thanks to those who have been leaving in family offering envelopes over the past few weeks. Thank you for your support.  
 There is a **'DONATE' Button** on the parish website which may make it easier for you to support the maintenance of the parish during these difficult times. You can donate to the Family Offering as well as the 1st and 2nd collections, if you wish, by clicking on the **DONATE** button and then following the instructions.  
**The first and Second collections at Sunday Mass are gathered up by placing your donation in the envelope provided on your seat. It is recommended to parishioners not to seal the envelopes for the first and second collections by licking them, as this would be unwise in the current climate.**  
 Of course, you can continue to donate by dropping your donation directly into the Parish Office or the safe at the back of the church. Your generosity is not only appreciated but is very encouraging at this time. **THANK YOU.**

**Annual Service of Remembrance**

As the government Plan for Living with Covid-19 looks set to continue at Level Five for the next month at least, our annual **Service of Remembrance** for those parishioners who died during the past year will take place **ONLINE on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.** We regret that we are unable to invite the families of those parishioners who died during the past year and parishioners who wish to remember a deceased loved one to attend in person. However, all parishioners are invited to participate at the Service, which this year takes the form of a Liturgy of the Word, via the webcam. As their names are called out, a candle will be lit at the Mass for each parishioner who died during the past year.