

Due to the latest government restrictions, from Saturday 26th December all Masses will be accessible via webcam only for at least the next three weeks. It is regrettable but inevitable, and we have to be grateful that we were able to gather together in our church to celebrate our Christmas Mass.



The church will remain open for private prayer each day from about 11.00am -3.00pm, and we encourage parishioners to make a family visit to our beautiful crib in the church over the Christmas holiday and to say a prayer together.

The website for each of the churches in the Glasnevin grouping webcam is the following

Iona Rd. webcam (www.ionaroadparish.ie)
 Monastery of St Alphonsus webcam (www.rednuns.com)
 Our Lady of Victories Ballymun Rd webcam (www.olv.ie)
 Our Lady of Dolour's Glasnevin webcam (www.glasnevinparish.ie)
 Out Mother of Divine Grace Ballygall webcam (www.ballygallparish.ie)

The Redemptoristine Community thank you for your support and pray God's blessings on you this Christmastide and throughout 2019.

Live streaming of Mass

A couple of years ago we installed a camera at the back of the church to allow us share our weekday and Sunday celebration of Mass with those confined to their home and those who now live far away from the parish. This facility has become increasingly important to parishioners in the past year, when it has not been possible to attend Mass in person. It is also a vital link at this time with those who are unable to return home for Christmas. At least now by viewing Christmas Mass via webcam from their home parish, they will feel united with their loved ones who are attending the same Mass. In recent weeks we have invested in

upgrading the webcam facility, so that different camera angles are possible and all services (including weddings and funerals) are now recorded, so that people living in different time zones can view the recording at a later time.

In order to welcome the New Year in a prayerful spirit, an online service of music, reflection and prayer will take place in the church of Our Lady of Dolours, Glasnevin on Thursday 31st December, New Year's Eve. This year the service will be accessible via webcam only through the parish website at: www.glasnevinparish.ie It will begin at 11.30pm and conclude at 12.10am.

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

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.

Parish Office Opening Times:
Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30 Ph: 8308257 /
email: ionaroadparish@gmail.com



PARISH LINK



Issue No

Parish of St. Columba

25th December 2020



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.



Christmas Message from Fr. Richard

'Today a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.' This is the essence of the Christmas message. In the person of Jesus Christ God has entered the world and transformed human history. It is the reason for our rejoicing. And we have never more needed a reason to rejoice. It has been a very hard year for most of us, and many people face an uncertain future as we enter 2021. But it has also been a year where we have come to realise who and

what is important in our lives. We will be happy just to sit around the Christmas table with loved ones and thank God for our blessings. We will say a prayer for those who could not travel home to be with us this year, and remember with love, gratitude and hope those who have journeyed onward since this time last year. We will spare a thought for those who are spending Christmas in a hospital or nursing home and all the frontline workers who will be on duty at this time. We celebrate the birth of Jesus because he is Emmanuel, the living sign of a God who will journey with us into the coming year, helping us to bring light out of darkness, hope out of sorrow and life out of death.

Speaking of giving thanks, Christmas is a time when we particularly want to acknowledge our gratitude to those who serve the mission of the parish in a voluntary capacity in so many discreet and dedicated ways. Since the pandemic arrived in the early part of the year, many parish volunteers stepped back from ministries they had faithfully been carrying out for many years, particularly those over 70 years of age. In doing this they were both acting on the advice of the government and observing church guidelines. Some may wish to return to their service or ministry once vaccines have become widely available in the country and the pandemic is no longer a threat. In the meantime, however, we wish to thank all those volunteers for their great service to the parish, whether as a collector/counter, minister of the Word or of the Eucharist or in whatever other capacity.

When restrictions were lifted, and we were able to return to the public celebration of Mass during the year, we could not have done without the assistance of so many who came forward to assist with stewarding and with sanitising the church after each celebration of the Eucharist. We are grateful too to those who assisted with delivering the Christmas mailing, with organising the booking of places for Christmas Masses and delivery of tickets. We would particularly like to thank the Nolan family for organising the Christmas tree inside and the beautiful crib figures outside the church. Finally a huge thanks to our sacristans, liturgical music team, liturgy group, secretarial and administrative staff who work with such dedication throughout the year.

Fr. Paddy and Fr. Richard wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year!

We are grateful for the generosity of parishioners, who have recently returned both Easter and Christmas Dues, which form a significant part of the annual remuneration of the priests of the parish and of the diocese. We also thank parishioners for your contributions to the First and Second Collections at Mass and to the Family Offering. Because a significant number of parishioners contribute to the parish through regular standing order, the Family Offering contributions have remained more or less steady in what has been a difficult year. If you do not have a standing order with the parish, perhaps it's

something you might consider. Just contact the parish office for details on how to set this up. We draw your attention to the 'Donate' button on the parish website www.ionaroadparish.ie which some may find an easier way to make regular contributions. Our Finance Committee will be writing to parishioners early in the New Year to give an update on the parish finances and to explain the different ways parishioners and visitors can contribute to the parish on a regular basis. In the meantime we thank you for your continued support.

Fr. Richard



We welcome all who were baptised in Iona Road in the past year. We are not able to hold our special Mass in January as usual so hopefully with the coming of better times in 2021 we will invite all the families to Mass to celebrate the children joining our Christian Community.



ACCORD Dublin are very grateful for your continuing support and guidance in our work during what has been a very difficult year for all of us.

Wishing you Peace and Joy this Christmas and for the coming year.

With best wishes from all the members of Accord Dublin



Dear Friends
Happy Christmas – wherever you are and however you are, you are beloved and a blessing for us all. I want to share with you an image and story from Dublin. May it remind us of what matters –

Humans being human, breaking bread, recognising the divine present among us.

Noirin

We remember all who have passed away during the year and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.



Many Thanks to all who supported the recent Annual collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.
The amount raised was €2614.00



The society would also like to acknowledge anonymous donations of €20 & €5

**A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.
And many Christmas blessings to you and your family.**