

Reflection:

The days leading up to Christmas tend to be a bit frenetic for many of us. While children may be wondering how many sleeps till Christmas, many of us are wondering how we are going to accomplish our long list of tasks within the time left: posting cards, buying or wrapping presents, shopping for the essentials, preparing the festive fare, decorating the church, organising liturgies. We know we will make it over the finish line on Christmas Day, but will we actually create the mental and physical space in ourselves to welcome the Word made flesh, the prince of Peace, or will we miss the moment? God entered our human condition in Jesus because a young woman from Nazareth allowed a word of God whispered in her heart to disturb her. She may have been anxious, unsure, but her prayer life had led her to trust the source of that word and to say yes to what was being asked of her. The God of Christian faith is continually addressing a word to each of us. It's an invitation to a deeper, more meaningful and fulfilled life. The invitation may challenge us in some way, but it is always accompanied by the words: 'Do not be afraid' and 'the Lord is with you'. Will we pause from whatever it is we are engaged with long enough to allow that word to 'disturb' us, and will we have the trust and courage to respond with Mary: 'Let what you have said be done in me?'

Fr Richard Sheehy

Our church is open for all services including Mass

It will be open for private prayer during the week, from 11am.
Daily Mass Times are 10:30am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. (no daily Mass on Tuesdays),
Saturday Vigil Mass is at 6pm and Sunday Mass is at 11 am.
Christmas Eve 24th Dec: 6pm – Family Mass and 9pm Vigil Mass
Christmas Day 25th Dec: 9am and 11am
Saturday 26th Vigil Mass 6pm Sunday 27th December 11am
ALSO AVAILABLE VIA WEBCAM



Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sat.	19th	6.00pm	Sadie Chawke (A) Colm Collins (A) Michael and Mary O' Sullivan and Paddy Cusack (A)
Sun.	20th	11.00am	Eamonn Ryan (A)
Thur.	24th	10.30am	Stephen Caffrey (A)
Fri.	25th	9.00am	& 11.00 Christmas Day
Sat.	26th	11.00am	Mary O'Reilly (A)
Wed	30th	10.30am	Teresa Morrissey (A)



We thank parishioners who have been kind enough to drop in their contributions to the First and Second Collections and to the Family Offering each week. It is greatly appreciated. We also draw parishioners' attention to the 'Donate' button, on the Parish website which some parishioners may find an easier way to make their regular contributions, especially during this time of lockdown.

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

PARISH



LINK

Issue No 27/49

Parish of St. Columba

20th December 2020



**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

**Ticket applications for Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day Mass.**

We have been able to accommodate all applications received and tickets are being delivered this weekend. Please let us know if you have not received yours. 6pm Mass is fully booked but there is some availability for the 9am Mass on Christmas morning. All services are available on our webcam.

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.

Mass in the Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes
AVAILABLE ON WEBCAM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The website for each of the churches 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)

Corpus Christi, Drumcondra (www.corpuschristidrumcondra.ie.)

Aware - Support & Self Care Groups If you, or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, please consider using the Phone In and Zoom Support & Self Care Groups, the Support Line or Support Mail, now and throughout the holiday season. These services provide support, coping skills and information – and most importantly help people who are in distress to know and feel that they are not alone in their experience. For more information about the groups <https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/> and all of our services on www.aware.ie

Huge thanks to all who supported the St. Vincent de Paul Collection; last weekend. The amount raised was €2614.00



We are writing to express a big 'thank you'. We asked for donations of toiletries to include with food parcels we distribute. We received a huge amount. We also received food and financial donations via www.crosscare.ie. *Wishing a Happy Christmas from the Crosscare Food Services team.*



Something Different for Advent—I know this is, and is going to be a busy and uncertain time for so many – so we are just encouraging you to make sure to make a little space to look after yourself. Here is a little gift for you to help you to take a bit of time this Advent – Share it with all the other Busy people you know – Take from it what you need. You can download and print this free resource from [//www.clondalkinparish.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Advent-A-busy-persons-retreat-SDFA-2020.pdf?](http://www.clondalkinparish.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Advent-A-busy-persons-retreat-SDFA-2020.pdf)

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 ionaroadparish@gmail.com

Senior Line

If you are an older person and would like someone to talk to, particularly since Covid-19, consider phoning Senior Line. We are Ireland's national confidential service for older people. We are open every day of the year from 10am-10pm. We are older people too, trained to listen and support. We would love to hear from you. Freefone 1800 80 45 91

Each **Thursday** at a weekly Zoom meeting 7.30pm-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 (richarddesheehy@gmail.com) for the meeting ID and password.

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 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**, and will remain open over the Christmas period.

This year The Moving Crib will be 64 years old! It has been a key feature of Christmas in Dublin for so long that parents and grandparents, who visited The Moving Crib as children, are now bringing their children and grandchildren to enjoy and re-live this amazing Christmas experience. The only one of its kind built in Ireland, the Moving Crib is a historical and entertaining experience that winds its way downstairs in the stunning Georgian building. Once downstairs, you are greeted with a montage of many historical & fun stories, including Noah's Ark, Moses, Bethlehem and The Wise Men which are all sure to engage your little ones on the journey through to the Crib itself. It is located at St Martin's 42 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1 . Booking must be made online www.stmartin.ie/moving-crib.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Given the present extraordinary circumstances where 'physical distancing' is mandatory, the church is unable to provide the celebration of the sacraments in the normal way, including the sacrament of reconciliation. For the moment, if you desire Confession, you are encouraged to an Act of Contrition, with the intention of confessing our sins to a priest when you are able, so that you may experience the joy of reconciliation

