

## Reflection ....

*The first recorded words of Jesus in John's Gospel are a question: 'What do you want?' Were we to put that question to people today we might get a variety of answers: to be able to visit family and friends again, to be able to go back to school or to our place of work, to be able to attend Mass in person, to get the vaccine, to be under less pressure working in a hospital or nursing home setting, not to get sick, to be able to play sport again. These are all a response to our current situation, where so much of our normal activity and social life is curtailed and we are asked to stay at home for the sake of the wellbeing of all. But the question Jesus asks is at a deeper level. Beyond our current needs or sense of dissatisfaction or frustration, what are we really looking for in life? What do we hunger for deep down: love, acceptance, hope, purpose, a sense of God, forgiveness...? When Andrew and the other disciple respond to Jesus question by saying, 'Rabbi, where do you live?' they sense that Jesus has something life-giving to offer them and they want to get to know him more.*

*The report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes presents a litany of appalling suffering over several decades of thousands of vulnerable young women and their babies at the hands of both church and state. The stories may be painful to listen to, but it is very important for the survivors that they feel heard, acknowledged, believed, and vindicated in their search for truth and justice. We can only pray that the publication of the report and the unequivocal apologies by both church and state bodies may serve as a necessary first step on the way towards healing and closure.*

.... Fr. Richard

### Mass Intentions for the coming week



Sat.	16th	6.00pm	
Sun.	17th	11.00am	Sheila Sweeney (2nd A)
Wed.	20th	10.30am	Michael Chawke (A)
Sat.	23rd	6.00pm	Timothy O'Leary (A)
Sun.	24th	11.00am	



Let us pray for recently deceased **Cara Toolin of Iona Road**

Items for the Parish Link can be e-mailed to [parishlink@gmail.com](mailto:parishlink@gmail.com) or dropped into the Parish Office. A contact name and phone number is required for each item.

Ph: 8308257 or email [ionaroadparish@gmail.com](mailto:ionaroadparish@gmail.com)

St. Columba's Parish website : [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie)

# PARISH



# LINK

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Parish of St. Columba

17th January 2021



....Over recent years, we have all gotten so used to emails and Skype and there are very few of us who don't have a mobile phone. Over the last year we have all figured out how to use Zoom as a way of calling others as we connect and make contact with them. As we all continue to live with some form of local and national social restrictions and distancing, it may not be brilliant, but it is the best we have and it does at least allow us to call, hear and see our friends and families.


**The first reading and the gospel today are about God reaching out and calling us by our name through others. God is always trying to contact us and connect with us.....**

**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.**



We are grateful for the great generosity of parishioners in returning Christmas Offerings, 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** and to the **Family Offering**. We also draw parishioners' attention to the 'Donate' button on the parish website [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie), which some may prefer to use for their regular contributions.

**Any household who is waiting for the 2021 box of envelopes to be delivered to your home please note that during this current time of lockdown we are not in a position to deliver them and we hope to get them to you as soon as it is possible.**



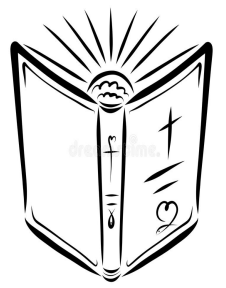
We look forward to welcoming **Archbishop-Elect Dermot Farrell**, to our diocese in the coming weeks and pray that the Lord will bless his ministry. We are grateful for the dedicated service to the people and priests of the diocese of Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and wish him well in his retirement.

**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](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))
  - Corpus Christi, Drumcondra ([www.corpuschristidrumcondra.ie](http://www.corpuschristidrumcondra.ie))

**OUR WEEKLY ZOOM MEETINGS ...** to read and reflect together on the readings for the following Sunday resumes this **Thursday 14th January at 7.30pm**. No expertise is required, but all kinds of questions and insights arise from the shared reflection and discussion. Those of us who participate find that it prepares us to hear the Sunday Mass readings in a deeper way.

**Everybody is welcome to join us any week.** Just give the parish your email address, and a link to the meeting will be sent to you each week.



**COVID-19 Support Lines for Older People ALONE** The support line is open seven days a week, 8.00am – 8.00pm, by calling 0818 222 024..

**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.

**The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 runs from 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January.**



The theme for the 2021 Week of Prayer, **'Abide in my Love... You Shall Bear Much Fruit'**

is discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (Jn. 15:5-9). This year's Inaugural Service, hosted by Christ Church Rathgar Presbyterian church and organised by the Dublin Council of Churches, will be available as a pre-recorded You Tube featuring participants from 14 Christian denominations in the Dublin area. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is the preacher.

Materials for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) 2021 are available to download from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) website. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.