

Reflection

'An Interrupted Life' is the title of the diaries and letters of Etty Hillesum, a Jewish woman living in Amsterdam who perished in Auschwitz, along with her parents and brother in 1943. An interrupted life might also describe the effect of the coronavirus on so many aspects of our lives over the past ten months. Currently going through our third 'lockdown', our first concern is with those who have contracted the virus and become very ill as a result, and with the healthcare professionals who have been working at the limit of their capacity for some time already. For the majority of us who have not yet been directly affected, it's more about what we can't do. While there are so many things we miss: going to work or school, visiting friends or relatives, playing sport or going to the theatre or cinema, or even church, on the whole people have been very good at complying with the government restrictions, and we have learned to adapt to online teaching, zoom meetings and webcam Masses. Many have also seen the present circumstances as an opportunity to imagine life differently.

The readings this Sunday are all about interruption, or is it irruption? Somehow in the midst of ordinary life and at the least expected moments, God breaks in on our lives leading to a change of direction. It happens at Nineveh, it happens for Paul of Tarsus, and it happens for a quartet of fishermen on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Will we continue to regard the coronavirus simply as interruption, or disruption, or are we open to God's irruption in our lives?

.... Fr. Richard



Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sat.	23rd	6.00pm	Timothy O'Leary (A)
Thur.	28th	10.30am	Kathleen Heffernan (A)
Fri.	29th	10.30am	Mary Haugh (A)
Sat.	30th	6.00pm	—
Sun.	31st	11.00	—

Items for the Parish Link can be e-mailed to 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
St. Columba's Parish website : www.ionaroadparish.ie

PARISH



LINK

Issue No 28/ 3

Parish of St. Columba

24 January 2021

'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



"Follow me."

Prayer ... *We thank you for your church, founded upon your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray, but go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon you. Help us to realize that humanity was created to shine like the stars and live on through all eternity. Keep us, we pray, in perfect peace. Help us to walk together, pray together, sing together, and live together until that day when all God's children -- Black, White, Red, Brown and Yellow -- will rejoice in one common band of humanity in the reign of our Lord and of our God, we pray. Amen. (Martin Luther King Jr.)*

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, 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.

ALONE manage a national COVID-19 Support Line for Older People and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the Coronavirus. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. **The support line 0818 222 024 is open 7 days a week 8am - 8pm**

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

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. For more info about the groups <https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/> and all of our services on www.aware.ie

Under current government restrictions, Sunday and weekday Masses are accessible only on webcam, which is accessed through the front page of the parish website: www.ionaroadparish.ie All Sunday and weekday Masses are recorded for later viewing. The church remains open each day from 11.00am-3.00pm for private prayer.

The website for each of the churches in the Glasnevin Grouping is as follows:

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.)

Pope Francis instituted *the Sunday of the Word of God*, so as to appreciate 'the riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people'. It takes place during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, emphasising the important bond we have in Sacred Scripture with other Christian denominations and religious traditions. **Perhaps this is a good opportunity to join our weekly Zoom meeting to read and reflect together on the readings for the following Sunday each Thursday at 7.30pm.** We meet for just 45 minutes. Those of us who participate find that it prepares us to hear the Sunday Mass readings in a deeper and more meaningful 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.**



Margaret
Aylward Centre
for Faith & Dialogue

*a place of prayer, tranquility, conversation
and dialogue for all*

2021 Spring Online Events

The Mystical Journey

Toward A New Imaging

Trellis For The Soul

Meditate At Home With The Labyrinth

All You Need Is Love

Further information @

www.margaretaylwardcentre.ie/

Overview of Loss and Bereavement
online workshop Thursday 28th January
from 9.15am - 4.15pm. This workshop is aimed at those working with the bereaved within your parish e.g. clergy, bereavement support groups, and funeral support teams. Further details and booking at:-
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/overview-of-loss-and-bereavement-tickets-131216836089>



Dublin
Diocesan
Liturgical
Resource
Centre

In place of our annual Spring Seminar we invite you to join us for 3 Online Liturgy Tuesdays with presentations and chats where ideas can be shared. To book your place email

lisia.cashen@dublindiocese.ie

Tuesday 26th January

8.00 - 8.45pm - ZOOM

How we can celebrate the season of Lent in COVID times?

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

8.00 - 8.45pm -

ONLINE (www.rednuns.com)

Day for Consecrated Life

Tuesday 9th February 2021

8.00 - 8.45pm - ZOOM -

How do we reconcile in COVID time?