

Reflection ..

'Will we get back to normal?' is the provocative title of the talk Fr. Paddy Sweeney gave in Iona Road church this week in his very thought provoking Lenten reflections on Living in Unsettling Times: provocative in the sense that the question assumes that the life we were leading prior to the coronavirus pandemic was 'normal' or even 'normative'. Perhaps the experience of the pandemic has brought into focus the question of whether the lifestyles we were leading prior to Covid 19 enhanced or diminished the quality of human life and relationships. Would returning to life the way it was necessarily be a good thing? Is it even sustainable? Nevertheless, there is a real sense of pain being expressed in the question 'will we get back to normal?'. It is the experience of being deprived of so many simple but good things that perhaps we took for granted beforehand: being able to see family and friends, to exchange a hug, to gather for a social occasion or enjoy a sporting event, to attend Mass as a community of faith; to visit a loved one in hospital or a nursing home. For some people, it is feeling isolated or cut off from their community. The past year has represented a real 'dying'. In that context, Jesus's use of the metaphor of the grain of wheat in this Sunday's Gospel offers hope. The story of the people of Israel in the Bible, who continually lost their way, is also a story of discovering in times of crisis a God who cared for them and journeyed with them. For Christians the approach of Holy Week encourages us to reflect on the love of God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. In Jesus we encounter a God who comes close to us especially in time of trial, who walks with us and who helps us carry our crosses of loss, pain or loneliness, and who *promises the joy of new life. 'Deep within them, I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God, and they shall be my people'.* ... **Fr. Richard**

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Mon. 22nd	10.30am	Kay Kirwan (A)
Wed. 24th	10.30am	Margaret & Frank McKeon and their daughter Margaret (A)
Thur. 25th	10.30am	Paul Kean (Rec Dec)
Sun. 28th	10.30am	Bill Darby (1st A)



We thank parishioners for your generous contributions to the **First and Second Collections** and to the **Family Offering**. A '**Donate**' button on the parish website www.ionaroadparish.ie can also be used for regular contributions.

Date 14/3/2021 : 1st collection €10 / 2nd Collection €0 / Family Offering €465

Boxes of envelopes have gone out in the past few weeks to households who support the **Family Offering** (the only collection which directly funds the work of the parish). If you have not received a box and would like to support the parish in this way, please contact Sheila in the parish office, and she will get a box of envelopes delivered to you.

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

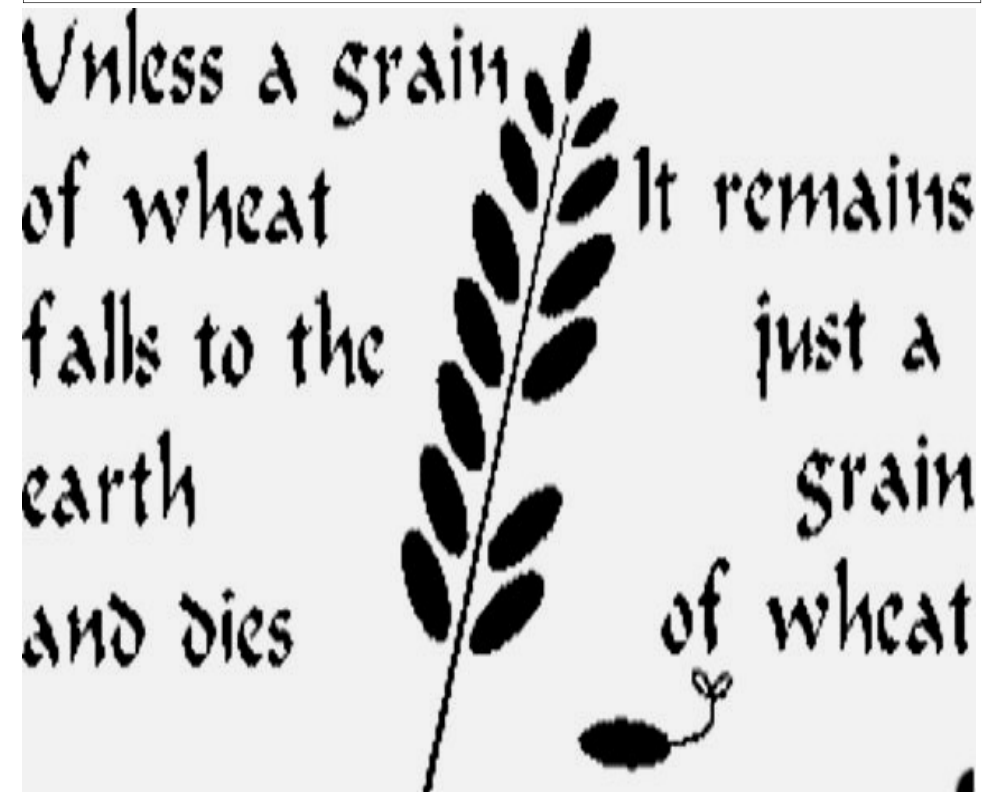


LINK

Issue No 28/11

Parish of St. Columba

21st March 2021



Psalm 50....

*A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.*

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 Glasnevin Grouping of Parishes presents:

'Living in Unsettling Times: Reflections for the Time and Season'.

A series of online reflections by Fr. Paddy Sweeney each Thursday at 7.30pm.

The weekly reflections can be accessed on webcam from each of the five parishes in turn.



Thursday 25th March:

Corpus Christi, Drumcondra:

www.corpuschristidrumcondra.ie

'I haven't much to offer!'

A number of worthwhile initiatives for Lent can be accessed online from the Lent 2021 section of the diocesan website www.dublindiocese.ie including:



Acts of Love for Lent – a practical suggestion for each day of Lent from Bonnybrook parish

Lent on Line (LOL) – on each day of Lent, families from around the diocese, including our parish, offer a two minute reflection on what Lent means to them, posted at 8am each day.



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 of our services on www.aware.ie



LEGION OF MARY – YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Catholic Young Adult Conference via Zoom on March 27th from 5:30 - 7:30pm is a chance for young adults (18 – 40) wherever they are to come together online to build up their hope. The theme "Hope Springs Eternal" will be discussed in a great line up of short talks and testimonies mixed together with music and prayer. The Conference is free to attend just log in to Zoom: ID 847 1984 5205 Passcode: 771328 . Whatever about an injection for Covid, come and get a powerful injection of hope! **Newcomers especially welcome."**

Sunday and weekday Masses are accessible on webcam (accessed through the front page of the parish website: www.ionaroadparish.ie and 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.)

Easter in Iona Road Parish...

Over the coming week, there will be an Easter pack delivered to our parishioners. It will contain i) the Holy Week/Easter schedule, with some suggestions for activities and reflections for Holy Week, ii) Easter Dues and iii) a letter from Fr. Richard and Fr. Paddy.

Our weekly Zoom meeting to read and reflect together on the readings for the following Sunday is now on Fridays at 7.30pm to facilitate parishioners participating in Fr. Paddy Sweeney's reflections on Thursday evenings. Provide the parish with your email address, and a link to the meeting will be sent to you each week.

An opportunity for **Parish Pastoral Councils** to explore what are the needs and concerns emerging in parish life and ways to pastorally respond by walking together in these changing times. **Ideal for new members on 25th March at 7.00pm.** To book email evangelisation@dublindiocese.ie

Trocaire Lenten Campaign 2021

This year Trocaire's Lenten Campaign will focus on exploring the Impact of Conflict on Families in South Sudan. This Lent, we learn more about the suffering of people who have lost their homes and loved ones to war, and how they are rebuilding their lives through love, friendship and solidarity. Parish resources are now available at Parishes - Resources | Trócaire (trocaire.org)
Trocaire's Lenten Campaign BOXES are available at the back of the church

