



We continue to welcome back parishioners to Mass on Saturday at 6pm and Sunday at 11.00am. **Daily Mass is at 10:30am on Mon. Wed. Thurs and Fri.**

We would like to remind parishioners of the following guidelines: -

The church is divided into pods, and stewards are on hand to count parishioners in and guide you to where to sit, so we can maximise the number who can attend while ensuring all safety measures are observed. Please follow the directions of the stewards in approaching the altar for Holy Communion and in exiting the church at the end of Mass.

Mass will continue to be streamed on the webcam for those who choose for the moment to continue to

participate from home: [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie) The church remains open each day from 11.00am -3.00pm for private prayer.

**We thank all those who have volunteered to serve as stewards for weekend and weekday Masses. We are always happy to recruit more stewards.**

**We thank parishioners for your contributions to the First and Second Collections and to the Family Offering. Contributions can also be made through the 'Donate' button on the parish website: [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://www.ionaroadparish.ie)**

To compensate for the decrease in contributions to the First Collection due to churches being closed for the public celebration of Mass over several months Archbishop Farrell has approved a proposal to hold a Summer Dues collection. This initiative will follow the pattern of Christmas and Easter dues collections, giving parishioners an opportunity to contribute to the income that supports priests. Summer Dues envelopes will be available at the back of the church throughout the summer months, and we thank parishioners and visitors in advance for your generous support of this new initiative.



**Reflection** Many of us have become caught up in the excitement of the Olympic Games over the past three weeks, especially with the success of our athletes in rowing events and in the boxing ring. But as all elite athletes will concede, success comes at a cost: rigorous training schedules and dieting regimes, mental preparation and enormous amount of time away from family and friends. In this Sunday's First Reading, the prophet Elijah is at a particularly low point in his life and faces a stark choice: he can either give in to despair or take the food he needs to give him

strength for the journey ahead. Being a Christian today is not a walk in the park either. It calls for wisdom, courage, faithfulness, self-sacrifice, and a sense of justice. We need nourishment for the journey, and that nourishment is Christ himself, the 'bread of life'. Today is always a good day to strengthen or renew our relationship with Christ. Take time to pray, read one of the gospels, make a decision to come back to Mass again, receive Communion. 'I am the bread of life that comes down from heaven..... so that a person may eat it and not die.' *Fr. Richard Sheehy*

## BAPTISM

After an absence of nearly a year and in compliance with government advice we have resumed the celebration of Baptism at weekends. Parents wishing to have their child baptised should contact the parish office for an application form and send in a copy of their child's birth certificate. They will receive an invitation to participate in a zoom preparation meeting.

## Mass Intentions booked for the Month of August

Sat. 7th	Rita & John Hadley (A)
Wed. 11th	William O'Brien (A)
Sat. 14th	Gerry & Rita Quigley (A) Edward Halton (A)
Sat. 21st	Marjorie Scannal (Rec Dec) Danny O'Lone (A)
Mon. 23rd	Mary Muldoon (A)
Thur. 26th	Special Intention
Fri. 27th	Anne O'Kelly (Months Mind)

**Please Pray for all who are recently deceased.**

*Stained Glass window depicting Baptism in our church. Photographed by Stephen Huws*

**FAMILIES WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE** The 'Walking Together in Hope' initiative will be launched on **25 August 2021 at Saint Mary's Pro-Cathedral**. We want to encourage families to take part in various initiatives to support faith lived in the home and celebrated together in our parishes. Our goal is to celebrate moments of hope and joy in family life, with resources suitable for learning, living and leading faith that are complementary to the way family is lived today.

**Praying for Vocations** Archbishop Farrell is asking for people and priests to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life on a regular basis. As you are well aware, the need is great, so let's answer God's call and "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest"

**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.**