

Reflection: *'Who do you say I am?'* The question is asked of us each day by every single person we encounter, even though we (and they) are mostly unaware of it. Whether it concerns a chance meeting in the street, a telephone conversation, an engagement with a friend, family member or work colleague, at the heart of every encounter that question is being asked of us. What do I mean to you? Do you just want me for something, or am I important in your eyes? We answer the question in how we treat the other person. Do we acknowledge the inherent dignity of every individual, or do we put a label on them based on their age, ethnic background, faith perspective, occupation or social status? In putting the same question to his disciples in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is not searching for theological correctness or reassurance. He is simply asking the disciples how important he is in their lives. Are they willing to risk everything to follow him? Are we...? In what way does our answer to that question change our lives?

Fr Richard



A meeting of the **Parish Pastoral Council** will take place via zoom on Monday 13th September at 8.00pm.

Thank you for your contribution to the parish FAMILY OFFERING collection, amounting to €442.00 last weekend. This is received in weekly envelopes. An average weekly total of €544.00 is also contributed by Standing Orders.

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sat.	11th	6.00pm	Margaret & Joe Harkins (A) Marie & Dermot Brehany (A) Pat O'Donnell (A) Tim & Mary Bowler (A) Patrick & Monica Padden (A)
Sun.	12th	11.00am	Nuala Walsh (Month's Mind)
Mon.	13th	10.30am	Margaret McEnroe (A)
Wed.	15th	10.30am	Nuala Walsh (Rec Dec)
Sat.	18th	6.00pm	George Cosgrave (Month's Mind) Kieran, Karl & Pauline Andrews (A) Pat O'Donnell (A)



A sum of money was found in the church. Contact the parish office.

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 28/31

Parish of St. Columba

12th September 2021



**I WILL WALK IN THE
PRESENCE
OF THE LORD,
IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING**

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 continue to welcome back parishioners to Mass this weekend 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
- The church remains open each day from 11.00am -3.00pm for private prayer.

We thank parishioners for your contributions to the **First and Second Collections** and to the **Family Offering**. Since we recommenced the celebration of Sunday Mass with in-person attendance a few months ago, we have presented those arriving at the church with two envelopes: one for each of the two collections at Mass. These have been placed at the same time in the collection basket when the collectors go around.

In order to simplify procedures for parishioners and collectors, those attending Mass are handed only one envelope as they enter the church. The amount placed in the envelope will be divided 60/40% between the First Collection (for the priests of the parish and of the diocese) and the Share Collection (which funds the diocesan services which support parish life and ministry), unless otherwise indicated on the envelope by the donor. We appreciate your cooperation with this procedure. Contributions can also be made through the 'Donate' button on the parish website: www.ionaroadparish.ie

We also thank parishioners and visitors for your support of the *Summer Dues*. *Summer Dues* envelopes are available at the back of the church until the end of this month.

A weekly zoom meeting to read and reflect together on the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday continues each Friday at 7.30pm. Give your email address to the Parish secretary and a link to the meeting will be sent to you.



Fitline – Telephone Mentoring Support to help the over 55s get active. Call 1800 303 545 (Freephone) for more information. Or visit the website: www.ageandopportunity.ie



The annual collection for **Crosscare**, the social care agency of the diocese, will be taken up at all Masses **next Saturday/ Sunday 19th/20th September** and will replace the usual second collection for Share. Through their services for homeless people, youth, migrants and refugees, Crosscare focuses on helping people and families when they need it most. In community foodbanks and cafes, they provide food parcels and meals daily. Thank you for your support. www.crosscare.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. 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

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. 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.

Iona Active Retirement A holiday has been arranged for 10th October for members and their friends at the **Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill**. Five nights B&B & Dinner, €354 per person sharing and €454 single. Book by phoning 091 514 645 and give your Credit Card or Visa details. Please mention you are with the Iona Active Retirement group.



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.

Over the next few weeks we will have the joy of administering the sacraments of **First Communion and Confirmation** to many of the children in our parish. Some of them have been waiting since May 2020 to receive their First Communion. We pray for the children and their families as they prepare to celebrate these significant sacramental moments.

FAMILIES WALKING TOGETHER IN HOPE

The Archdiocese of Dublin will provide some simple and achievable ideas for families and parishes starting in September 2021. The 'Walking Together in Hope' initiative was launched in August 2021. To watch please go to YouTube – Launch of Families Walking Together in Hope. We are inviting families in our parishes to take part in various initiatives to support faith lived in the home and celebrated together in our parishes. The 'family of families' (parish) will be encouraged to reconnect the 'holy' to the home by suggesting rituals of faith in the home with parish rituals.