

**Reflection:** *This Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September marks another step forward along the road of the government's roadmap for a gradual reopening of society and the economy, with many people being encouraged to return to work in their office rather than continuing to work remotely.*

*In our churches too we are seeing a gradual easing of restrictions on numbers attending religious services, and after a considerable pause we are once again able to celebrate baptisms and weddings as well as First Communion and Confirmations. We look forward to soon having parish meetings with in person attendance rather than by zoom.*

*While we welcome the direction in which we are moving, and we want people to feel more comfortable in attending our church, the challenge is to show our concern for one another by continuing to observe the restrictions which remain in place, particularly social distancing, hand sanitising on entering the church, and (adults) wearing a face mask.*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank our sacristans, stewards, MCs, and baptism and funeral ministry teams who have ensured that we are welcomed and appropriately seated in the church and that the pews have been cleaned after each weekday and Sunday Mass. I also thank all the parishioners who have cooperated with this. 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' (Mark 9:35)*

**Fr Richard**

The annual diocesan **Safeguarding Sunday** will take place next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The theme for this year is *"Safeguarding in a pandemic"*.

Thank you for your contribution to the parish FAMILY OFFERING collection, amounting to €165.00 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.	18th	6.00pm	George Cosgrave (Month's Mind) Kieran, Karl & Pauline Andrews (A) Michael Collis (A)
Mon.	20th	10.30am	Fr. Eugene McCaffrey
Sat.	25th	6.00pm	Breda, William & Barry Nyhan & Pauline Moriarty (A)
Sun.	26th	11.00am	

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**

Issue No 28/32

Parish of St. Columba

19th September 2021



***"ANYONE WHO WELCOMES ONE OF THESE LITTLE CHILDREN  
IN MY NAME, WELCOMES ME,"***

***AND ANYONE WHO WELCOMES ME WELCOMES NOT ME BUT  
THE ONE WHO SENT ME." (MARK 9:37)***

**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: -

- Since 6<sup>th</sup> September the 'pod' system is no longer operative during the celebration of Mass. This means that we can accommodate more parishioners and visitors who wish to attend Mass.
- As social distancing restrictions still apply, every second pew remains cordoned off, and we ask parishioners to keep a two metre distance in the pew unless sitting with family members.
- We respectfully remind parishioners to follow the directions of the stewards and the M.C. at 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 welcome **Fr. Gareth Byrne** to the Glasnevin Grouping. Gareth has recently been appointed by Archbishop Dermot Farrell as Moderator of the Diocesan Curia, based in Drumcondra. He has offered to assist the parishes of the Grouping on Sundays, and will celebrate initially a monthly Mass in Iona Road. He will celebrate the 11.00am Mass next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

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, 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). We appreciate your cooperation with this procedure. Contributions can also be made through the '**Donate**' button on the parish website: [www.ionaroadparish.ie](http://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 meeting of the **Parish Finance Committee** will take place via zoom on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 8.00pm.

A Baptism preparation meeting for parents (and godparents) who are anticipating having their child baptised in the coming weeks will take place via zoom on Monday 20th Sept 7.00pm.



The annual collection for **Crosscare**, the social care agency of the diocese, will be taken up at all Masses **next Saturday/ Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 '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 to take part in various initiatives to support faith lived in the home and celebrated together in our parishes.

- [For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies. \(missionministry.ie\)](http://missionministry.ie)
- [Blessing of the School Bags - Blessing-of-School-Bags-2021.pdf \(missionministry.ie\)](http://missionministry.ie)
- [Parish Clean Up - Our Common Home \(missionministry.ie\)](http://missionministry.ie)
- [Mercy Day \(September 24<sup>th</sup>\) - Mercy-Day-Service-of-Reconciliation-inspired-by-Misericordiae-Vultus.docx.pdf \(missionministry.ie\)](http://missionministry.ie)