

Diocesan Safeguarding Day, 2021 Letter from Archbishop Farrell

Sunday, 26 September, is Diocesan Safeguarding day.
This year our focus is on safeguarding in a time of pandemic.

Our Safeguarding Day poster, which is available to download on www.csps.dublindiocese.ie draws attention to some of the ways we have tried to protect each other during this time: by observing social distancing guidelines; by wearing face masks; by caring for the poor as we see two people putting together hampers for distribution to poor families at Christmas. When we refer to safeguarding we think of the steps we take to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse. Our recent experiences of Covid-19 remind us that this is not something new or alien. The terminology may be different, but the activity of protecting the young and the vulnerable has always been central to who we are as a Christian community.

While the term 'vulnerable adult' has a particular meaning within our policies and guidelines, we have all learned a little bit more about what it means to be vulnerable during this time. We have been vulnerable to illness, to the loneliness that goes with social isolation, and to poverty as traditional sources of income dry up. We have experienced this at diocesan level through the very painful experience of letting go of some of our much loved and valued colleagues. We have had to make do with less. However, that opens up fresh challenges and opportunities as we learn to share with each other, across parishes and across dioceses, our time and our expertise in the work of safeguarding.

There have been some changes over the past year. Safeguarding training has been delivered via Zoom, though it is hoped that people will be able to attend training in person again sometime in 2022. The National Vetting Bureau have limited the number of roles for which vetting can be obtained. We, along with others who work with children and vulnerable persons, have appealed against what we consider an overly restrictive interpretation of the legislation. While we await the outcome of a review of the vetting legislation, we must not allow this to weaken our safeguarding practices. We need to explore other means to ensure that those who minister in our parishes do not represent a threat to the safety of children and vulnerable adults. All this is a reminder that there is never just one way of doing things. If one door is closed to us, we must open another.

Some things have changed, but others remain the same. In 2015, Pope Francis told us that: "Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home". Our safeguarding practices may have to change to adapt to new circumstances. Our commitment to make the Church in Dublin a safe and secure home for children and vulnerable adults remains undiminished.

I ask you to remember in your prayers all those who have suffered abuse.

+ Dermot Farrell

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 28/33

Parish of St. Columba

26th September 2021

26th Sunday in Ordinary time



Over the coming weeks we will have the joy of administering the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation to children in our parish, who have seen these ceremonies postponed a number of times. We pray for the children and their families as they prepare to celebrate these important sacramental moments. The following is the schedule for the coming week:

Monday 27th Sept at 3.00pm:

St. Columba's 2020 First Communion

Wednesday 29th Sept at 4.00pm:

St. Vincent's 2021 First Communion

Thursday 30th Sept at 2.00pm:

St. Columba's/Lindsay Road Confirmation

Thursday 30th Sept at 4.00pm:

St. Columba's Confirmation

Friday 1st October at 2.00pm:

St. Columba's 2021 First Communion

Friday 1st October at 4.00pm:

Lindsay Road 2021 First Communion

**All the ceremonies will be live
streamed on the parish webcam**



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: -

- 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
- 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 this Sunday 26th September, where I am sure he will be given a warm welcome. We also welcome back Fr. Paddy Jones, who will celebrate the 11.00am Mass next Sunday 3rd October.

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 which 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.

THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN CONFERENCE On Sat Oct 9th, The Hail Holy Queen Conference will be on Radio Maria Ireland at 2pm. Guest speakers include Bishop John Keenan, Dr. Patrick Kenny, Fr. Gerry McCloskey, and Dr. Blythe Kaufman.

COASTAL ROSARY On the following day (Sun Oct 10th), the Coastal Rosary will take place at 2.30pm. Join people from around Ireland to pray the Rosary for Life and Faith at our grottos, churches, at the coasts and other suitable places. We encourage you to gather safely being mindful of COVID 19 regulations. Simply sign up a Rosary location at www.coastalrosaryireland.ie or text your location to [087 278 6552](tel:0872786552).



Crosscare have asked us to express their thanks for your tremendous support of last Sunday's annual collection. Parishioners and visitors who missed the collection can still contribute by placing a contribution in one of the special 'Crosscare' envelopes available at the back of the church and placing it in the safe, or online at 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**. Train departing Heuston station at 2.40 pm. Five nights B&B & Dinner, €354 per person sharing, €454 single. Book by phoning 091 514 645 to give your Credit Card or Visa details. Please mention you are with the Iona Active Retirement Group.



FitLine is Age & Opportunity's volunteer telephone support line designed to help those over the age of 50 who want to feel a bit fitter and healthier, but perhaps don't have the motivation, confidence or information on where or how to take that first step. The service is completely free. We're encouraging people to free phone **1800 303 545** and learn more. After you've made that first call, a FitLine mentor will arrange a time to ring you every two weeks until you're happy with your progress. FitLine mentors are volunteers who understand the challenges of getting active. They'll give you information, advice and gentle encouragement to get moving, along with updates on what is happening in your local community.

As we move into the colder months it is important to keep active in any way we can. FitLine mentors are able to offer guidance for each individual's needs. For those who are working it's important to make time for yourself to exercise and calls are planned to suit your busy schedule.

To find out more free phone 1800 303 545 or email fitline@ageandopportunity.ie. You can also visit our website at <https://ageandopportunity.ie/active/fitline/>.

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.

