

Reflection: Reflection

Over the past few days, and after an extended summer, the weather has taken a decidedly autumnal turn. As the leaves change colour and begin to fall, we are reminded of the beauty but also of the fragility of nature. In the life of the Church we are in the season of creation, which runs till Monday 4th October, feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In the past couple of decades, we have become increasingly aware of the interdependence of all life on our planet and of the threat to biodiversity caused by human activity, and in particular by global warming. This Sunday's first reading from the Book of Genesis is a timely reminder that our relationship with all creation is meant to be that of protecting and enhancing it, not simply exploiting it for our own ends. In his recent pastoral letter for the season of creation, The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor, Archbishop Dermot Farrell writes that we have to face the climate crisis with a 'deep sense of reality and a profound sense of hope'. He also cites Pope Francis' video message for the Month of Creation 2020, where he says 'Today, not tomorrow, we have to take care of Creation with responsibility'. Of course we have a particular responsibility towards our fellow human beings. As we witness on our TV screens scenes of terrible suffering, as people are forced to flee their homes because of war, natural disasters or weather events, we are forced to ask ourselves what does it mean to be a 'helpmate' to one another?

Fr Richard

Thank you for your contribution to the parish FAMILY OFFERING collection, amounting to €506.00 last weekend. This is received in weekly envelopes. An average weekly total of €544.00 is also contributed by Standing Orders.

We welcome back Fr. Paddy Jones, who will celebrate the 11.00am Mass this Sunday 3rd October.

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sat.	9th	6.00pm	John Leogue (15A)
Sun.	10th	11.00am	Mary Neary (Month's Mind)

Please Pray for **May Caffrey of Lindsay Road** who passed away this week and all recently deceased.

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 28/34

Parish of St. Columba

3rd October 2021



'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessings.

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 6th 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
- 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**.

Those attending Mass are handed 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 congratulate all the children who made their **First Communion and Confirmation** in the parish over the past few weeks. We pray for the children and their families



We thank all those who have assisted with stewarding and cleaning of the pews after weekday and Sunday Mass over the past year and a half. We particularly thank those who assisted with stewarding and sanitising of pews for the First Communion and Confirmation ceremonies during the past two weeks. It is much appreciated!

thank you



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.

Beginning on Tuesday 26th October work will be carried out in the sanctuary area of the church to extend the steps and to relocate the brass handrails. This work, which is important for health and safety reasons, will necessitate closing off the sanctuary area for about 3-4 weeks and bringing forward a temporary altar for weekday and Sunday Mass. A temporary altar will also be set up for the reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused.

IONA ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP

The annual fee of €15 (fifteen euro) for 2021/22 is now due and should be given to the Treasurer, Marjorie Chawke.



10th October. Galway Bay Hotel. Train leaves Heuston at 2.40 p.m.

GUIDED PILGRIMAGES ON THE LOUGH DERG PILGRIM PATH

A guided pilgrimage will be offered on Sunday 3rd October, with Mass outdoors, weather permitting. The full route is a 12km loop, with a shorter 8km option. **Advance booking is essential.** For further information email info@loughderg.org or telephone 0(0353) 71 9861518. www.loughderg.org Lough Derg Pilgrim Path, Pettigo, Co Donegal.

THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN CONFERENCE On Saturday October 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 (Sunday 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.