

Reflection

We may groan inwardly as we anticipate an announcement of tighter restrictions concerning hospitality or attendance at cultural events in the coming days following the latest public health advice, and certainly our thoughts are with those whose businesses may be affected by such measures. But for most of us it's little more than an inconvenience or curtailment of social contact which is serving a greater good: preventing the spread of the latest version of the coronavirus and protecting our vulnerable health service. As we approach the celebration of Our Lord's Nativity, we have much to be thankful for: the vast majority of us are fully

vaccinated and many have already received their booster. Most of us can look forward to celebrating Christmas in the company of family and friends. Millions of people across the world are not so fortunate whether through poverty, hunger, conflict, forced migration or lack of access to vaccines. So let us approach the festive season in a spirit of gratitude and generosity, which will spread light and joy. In the midst of all our own agendas, let us make time for whom and for what is important, as Mary does. And as we enter this final week of Advent, let us draw inspiration from the openness of heart of her, who trusted that 'the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled'.

Fr. Richard Sheehy

Thank you for your contribution to the parish FAMILY OFFERING collection, amounting to **€823.00 last weekend**. This is received in weekly envelopes. An average weekly total of €544.00 is also contributed by Standing Orders.

Thank you!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank most sincerely your generous donations of €4410.00 to the Annual Collection which took place last weekend.



Mass Intentions for the coming week

Sat.	18th	6.00pm	Stella Lawless (A) Mary & Michael O'Sullivan (A) Paddy Cusack (A)
Sun.	19th	11.00am	Eamon Ryan (A)
Mon.	20th	10.30am	Sadie Chawke (A)
Wed.	22nd	10.30am	Anna Prendergast (A)
Thur.	23rd	10.30am	Mafra & John Sindale (A)

Please pray for all our 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 28/45

Parish of St. Columba

19 December 2021

PLEASE TAKE THE LINK HOME WITH YOU

Happy 4th week of Advent!

***'I am the handmaid of the Lord:
Let what you have said be done to me'***



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.

Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to continue hand sanitising on entering the church, to maintain social distancing and to wear face masks throughout the Mass. An MC will introduce the Mass at the weekends, updating everyone with any new developments.

There are two Collection moments at Mass, the first after the homily, and the second while the parish notices are being read.

We thank parishioners who have taken the trouble to reserve a place at the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6.00pm next Friday 24th December. We are almost full at this stage. However, we are confident of accommodating those parishioners who wish to attend the 9.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, or the 11.00am Mass on Christmas Day.

We will particularly appreciate the assistance of stewards in seating those who attend the Family Mass on Christmas Eve

Christmas Mass times are the following:

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Family Mass

9.00pm Mass of the Lord's Nativity

Christmas Day: 11.00am Mass

All our Christmas Masses will be live streamed, which will be of particular interest to those parishioners who have family members living abroad.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available immediately after both the 6.00pm and 11.00am Masses this Saturday/Sunday.

An Advent Service of Reconciliation led by the Franciscan friars will be celebrated in the church of Our Mother of Divine Grace, Ballygall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 22nd December.



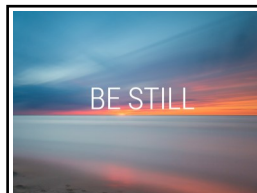
Parishioners are invited to donate a poinsettia plant to help decorate the church and the crib this Christmas. If you are able to do this please leave the plants at the crib space in the church.
Many Thanks

1,500 anniversary of the birth of St Columba Colmcille Exhibition of objects associated with the saint at the National Museum, Kildare Street.
Free admission

Contact AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS - in relation to your mental wellbeing,
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
is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, call 0818 222 024.

On the **Thursdays of Advent**, parishioners are invited to participate (via zoom) in a reflective reading (**Lectio Divina**) of the Gospel for the following Sunday. We will meet on Thursday 23rd December at 7.30pm. **If you would like to join us, just contact the parish secretary to ask for the zoom link.**



The Office for Mission and Ministry are offering **daily reflections for the Advent Journey**. The theme of these reflections is '**Be Still**'. The reflections will be posted each morning on the Facebook page for the office of Mission and Ministry.
www.facebook.com/officeformissionandministry

IONA ACTIVE RETIREMENT
The President and Committee wish all members a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



The Monastery of St. Alphonsus has two newly professed sisters.

Sr. Helen made her vows on 9th October and Sr. Shital on 11th December.



Srs. Lucy and Gabrielle assisted with the profession and the presentation of the black veil and the blue mantle. Sr. Helen is English while Sr. Shital is a native of India.

CLAREVILLE NEWS! ...

Despite the virus and the lockdown, thanks to the dedication of Teresa Killeen, Clareville has managed to remain open and provide dinners for those who need them. The first Christmas lunch was held last Wednesday for 40 diners and on next Wednesday the Centre will host another lunch for 40 and will then close for the Christmas holidays.

It will reopen on 10th January.



"I light a candle and suddenly the world around me changes.

I am reminded yet again that one small flame is all it takes to let the darkness know that it cannot win." (Dr. Ruth Patterson)



Crosscare is working with hundreds of families and children in Dublin who struggle to get basic food supplies. It is often the months after Christmas which many people find challenging. Crosscare helps people with food parcels and meals in our cafes and food banks and assists families with budgeting, healthy eating, long-term housing and welfare support. Due to Covid restrictions, the online appeal for donations replaces the food collection in parishes in previous years. Support our appeal to end food poverty by giving what you can online at www.crosscare.ie/donate or call 01 8360011.

Many thanks!