

Reflection

You may or may not have been hearing something recently about the Synodal Pathway. It was launched in the diocese by Archbishop Dermot Farrell at a liturgy in the Pro-Cathedral in October attended by a representative of every parish. At the invitation of Pope Francis, the pathway entitled 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission' is taking place in every diocese around the world as a preparation for a Synod or gathering of bishops in Rome in 2023. In the New Year, parishes will be invited to hold gatherings in which all will be invited to reflect together as people of God on their hopes and fears, joys and sorrows as we move forward as Church. At present parish representatives or 'local animators' are receiving training which will enable them to facilitate these gatherings, the fruits of which will inform the Irish contribution to the Synod. Advent has been designated a special time of prayerful preparation for this pathway, and Archbishop Dermot Farrell has invited us to pray the following Synod Prayer during this Advent season.

Fr Richard



**We stand before
You, Holy Spirit, as
we gather together
in Your name*

*With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home
in our hearts*

*Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not
let us promote disorder.*

*Do not let ignorance lead us
down the wrong path
nor partiality
influence our actions.*

*Let us find in You our unity so
that we may journey together
to eternal life and not stray
from the way of truth
and what is right.*

*All this we ask of You, who are
at work in every place and time,
in the communion of
the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.*

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.

The amount received for the Sick and Indigent Room keepers society was **€585.00**

Mass Intentions for the coming week

Wed.	8th	10.30am	Roy Intorre (A)
Sat.	11th	6.00pm	Christopher Cooke (A) Niamh Ní Nuallain (A)

**Please Pray for Maeve Layng , Teresa McCarthy and Deirdre MacShane
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



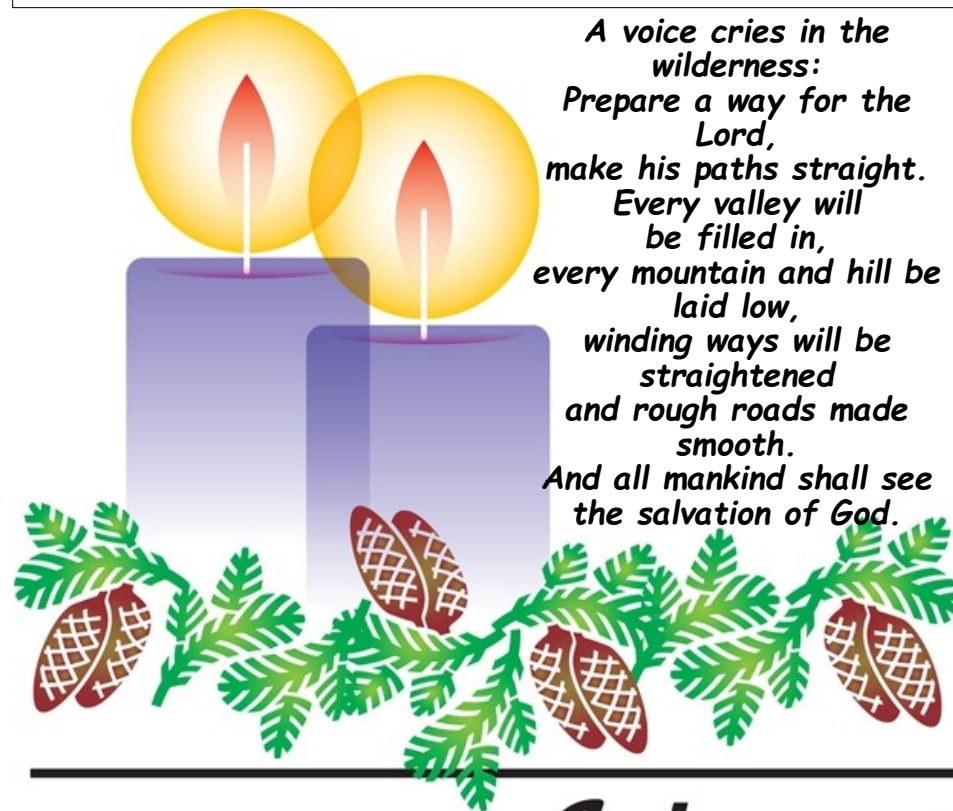
LINK

Issue No 28/43

Parish of St. Columba

5 December 2021

*PLEASE TAKE THE LINK HOME WITH YOU,
AND KEEP SAFE DISTANCE*



*A voice cries in the
wilderness:
Prepare a way for the
Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will
be filled in,
every mountain and hill be
laid low,
winding ways will be
straightened
and rough roads made
smooth.
And all mankind shall see
the salvation of God.*

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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.

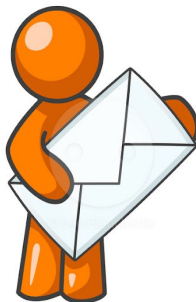
Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to continue hand sanitising on entering the church, to maintain social distancing and to wear face masks throughout the Mass. An MC will introduce the Mass at the weekends, updating everyone with any new developments.

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

Volunteers Needed

Our parish Christmas Pack (containing card, letter, timetable of services and Christmas Dues envelope) are available for distribution. The Christmas packs have been made up for each road in the parish and these will be on tables at the back of the church this weekend. We would really appreciate if parishioners could take the pack of envelopes for their particular road or a road near them and drop them into the relevant homes.

Many Thanks



crosscare

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!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection will take place NEXT weekend of 11/12 December

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to support those seeking assistance to the best of our availability. For the many families that are helped they are faced daily impossible choices, but at this time of year for many these impossible choices get harder, put oil in the tank or get the present on their child's list.

This year, more than ever, your help is needed to make sure that children and families have what they need to share in the magic of the season.

On Sunday 11th December, St Vincent de Paul will be holding a church collection in the hope to raise funds for people who are struggling this Christmas.

For more information, please contact your local SVP Volunteers

St VdeP would like to acknowledge receipt of anonymous donation of €40



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 9th 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



A ceremony of **Enrolment** for children and their families preparing for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** in 2022 will take place at the vigil Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday 11th December, third Sunday of Advent. Due to the numbers involved, we ask the children and families to participate via webcam at

www.ionaroadparish.ie A few representative families will attend in person.

We recently distributed a letter encouraging parishioners from January 2022 to place their donations for both collections in an envelope which can then be placed in the collection basket. This will enable the parish to trace the contribution and claim tax back on it. If you are happy to do this, we invite you to complete the form which is available at the back of the church, with your name and address on it, and drop it into the safe at the back of the church before Sunday 19th December.

We thank parishioners for your contributions to the First and Second Collections and to the Family Offering.



Contributions can also be made through the 'Donate' button on the parish

website: www.ionaroadparish.ie

Archbishop Dermot Farrell has published a **Pastoral Letter for Advent**. You can read it in full on our parish website www.ionaroadparish.ie

On Wednesdays in Advent, parishioners are invited to enjoy some evening reflective moments in Our Lady of Dolours church. A reflection entitled Mary's Journey will take place on Wednesday 8th December at 5.00pm. A Service of music and readings based on the Advent O Antiphons will take place on Wednesday 15th Dec. parishioners can attend in person or via webcam at: www.glasnevinparish.ie

AWARE - SUPPORT & SELF CARE GROUPS - If you, 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, now and throughout the holiday season. For more information about the groups <https://www.aware.ie/support/support-groups/> and all of our services on www.aware.ie

1,500 anniversary of the birth of St Columba



Our Parish Church is dedicated to St Columba. Columba, also known as Colum Cille, was born **on 7 December 521**, at Gartan, Co. Donegal. He died on 9 June 597 at the monastery he founded on the island of Iona.

Let us remember our patron this week and let us celebrate the 1,500 anniversary of his birth later in the new year.