

Reflection

As we enter these last two weeks of preparation for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, we are bound to get caught up in the busyness of all that has to be done, whether it's decorating the church, organising liturgies, sending Christmas cards, shopping, cooking, or wrapping presents. There is no getting away for it, but we might remember to pause for a few moments every day to remind ourselves what and whom it is we are celebrating.

'Have you ever been surrounded by a whirlwind of activity, perhaps in the midst of family and friends, and felt a sudden whoosh of deep contentment? Pope Francis often refers to a "joyful peace." Too often when we imagine peace, we think that it needs to be perfect stillness. If we're honest, we think that we might be a little bit bored with peace. When we reflect on the life of Jesus in the Gospels, we realize he was almost always in motion: walking, preaching, teaching, healing, eating, and drinking. Even when he went off to deserted places to pray, one imagines that he was in an active communion with his Father. As you go through the activities of your day, notice the times when you feel contentment and joy. If you find yourself feeling stressed and surrounded by chaos, take a few deep breaths and bring your attention back to Jesus. Remind yourself that he is the reason for all of this seasonal activity.

from the book [The Joy of Advent: Daily Reflections from Pope Francis](#) by Diane M. Houdek

Thank you for your contribution to the parish FAMILY OFFERING collection, amounting to **€538.00 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.	11th	6.00pm	Christopher Cooke (A) Dermot Cross (A) Niamh Ní Nuallain (A) Gretta & John McGrath (A) Stella Lawless
Sat.	18th	6.00pm	Mary & Michael O'Sullivan (A) Paddy Cusack (A)

Please Pray for Mary Bennett of Iona Road, 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 28/44

Parish of St. Columba

12 December 2021

PLEASE TAKE THE LINK HOME WITH YOU

Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice, Be Happy)

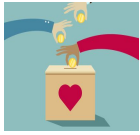
***'I baptise
you with
water, but
someone is
coming,
someone
who is more
powerful
than I am...***



***..and I am
not fit to
undo the
strap of his
sandals; he
will baptise
you with the
Holy Spirit
and fire.'***

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.

Huge thanks to all the parishioners who helped us deliver the Christmas Pack last weekend.



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

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



Today, 11th/12th December, St Vincent de Paul will be holding a church collection in the hope to raise funds for people who are struggling this Christmas.

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.

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.



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

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/



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 THIS 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

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:

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

**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**



IONA ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Owing to the surge in Covid 19 the Christmas lunch has been cancelled.

Hopefully it will be possible to meet in the New Year.