

Greetings from the Moderator—Since July, having been appointed moderator of the 5 parishes (of St. Columba's, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Dolours, Our Lady of Victories and Our Mother of Divine Grace) with the extra responsibilities of here in Iona Road as well as Ballygall where I have been resident since 2014, I have had to come to terms with a whole new set of people and parishioners with their own gifts and talents.

The welcome I have received here in Iona Road has been terrific and the support from yourselves, the regulars as well as the not so regular, is greatly appreciated. Over the months you, the people of Iona, have shown me how a parish works being supplemented by the priest rather than told what to do.

On behalf of Fr. Paddy and Fr. Gareth I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families every blessing for the Christmas season and throughout the New Year. Using the Advent candles as a source of blessing: May you have **HOPE** in the Risen Christ to fill you when you are surrounded by darkness, **PEACE** to help you find rest, **JOY** in all the good around you and may you experience the **LOVE** of God both here in the church and with those you come in contact with over the Christmas period. On Christmas Day the White Candle is lit as a reminder of the Christ-Child come into our midst. May you live with Christ's light burning inside you today and everyday. **Fr. Joseph Ryan.**

We thank parishioners for your contributions to the **First and Second Collections at Mass. A Tap and Go machine** at the back of the church facilitates parishioners and visitors who wish to contribute to the First and Second collections but who don't carry cash. **A second Tap and Go device has been installed for the benefit of receiving parish contributions.** Contributions to the parish can also be made through the 'Donate' button on the parish website www.ionaroadparish.ie

Thank you for your contribution to the parish **FAMILY OFFERING** collection, amounting to **€ 518.00 last weekend.** This is received in weekly envelopes. An average weekly total of €544.00 is also contributed by Standing Orders.

Mass timetable & Intentions for the coming week

Christmas Eve	SAT 24th	6.00pm	Family Mass
C Eve Vigil	24th	9.00pm	Vigil
Christmas Day	SUN 25th	11.00am	Christmas Morning
St Stephens Day	MON 26th	11.00am	Mass in the Monastery
TUE 27th	Mass in the Monastery @11am		
WED 28th	Mass in the Monastery @11am		
THUR 29th	Mass in the Monastery @11am		
FRI 30th	Mass in the Monastery @11am		
SAT 31st	6.00pm	Mary O'Reilly(10A) Ken Kilkenny (A)	
SUN 1st	11.00am		
Mon 2nd	Mass in the Monastery @11am		

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 29/47

Parish of St. Columba

25 December 2022

Wishing you a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year



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 to hand sanitise on entering the church and to wear face masks during Mass.
Communion is received in the hand only.



DECORATING OUR CRIB

Many thanks to all who donated Poinsettias for our crib

Our Parish shop will be open again in the New Year. It is a cash based system with lots of lovely cards and small gifts



Dear Friends, As this year draws to a close, another Advent nears its end and the celebration of Christmas gets ever closer, we want to express our appreciation for all the friendship and support you have offered to us here in the Centre over the past 12 months. We are conscious that so many people are struggling in so many different ways at this time of year and so we offer the poem below, as a reminder that Christmas is first and foremost about love: the love of a mother for her baby, the love of God for humankind, the love which we are invited to share with those we care about, and most importantly of all, with those who have no-one to care for them. The image of Jesus in the stable evokes love and care from anyone who gazes on it and so the invitation for us this Christmas is to look for, and see the face of Jesus in the stables, street corners and doorways, in the babies and the parents, in the old, the lonely, the broken and the forgotten and to offer them the best gift of all, our love. May your hearts and homes be filled with the Light of God With Us this Christmas. May you and yours be blessed with peace, love and hope.

CVESSE REOPENED

As part of a range of measures introduced in Budget '23 to meet higher energy costs across society, the Department of Rural and Community Development launched the Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESSE) on November 21, 2022. The scheme aims to provide for a once-off payment to eligible charities and community and voluntary sector organisations towards their energy costs for 2022.

The scheme has re-opened for applications, and will close For further information, eligibility and link to the application process please visit the [Community and Voluntary Sector Energy Support Scheme – Pobal](#).

A Quiet Moment

Take a moment to close your eyes,
Focus on a figure, the lights of the tree,
candle on the wreath
Take in 3 deep breaths
Leave all the madness of the day so far to the side – it'll be waiting for you on your way out the door
Think about everything we have gone through in the year
Maybe we didn't always show Love throughout the time
take a moment to say sorry in your head for not showing love, Now, use your inner voice, share with God what you are excited about



IONA Active Retirement wish everyone a very

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

All activities will resume in January

Our Prayer Tree

We invite anyone who would like to write a short prayer on the cards provided (beside the crib) and place them on the tree.



Crosscare Christmas Food Poverty Appeal

This Christmas, Crosscare are asking for help for the Food Poverty Service, where they support families who find it hard to provide nutritious food. Sadly, almost 800 families and individuals, including 1,000 children, have needed help from the Service this year and demand is likely to increase in the coming months. Crosscare ensures they have a good supply of food while at the same time looking at all the issues that may have brought them into food poverty.

Please donate online at www.crosscare.ie or call 01 8360011

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The 56th World Day of Peace will be celebrated with a special Mass in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on **Sunday, January 1, at 11am.**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank those who gave anonymous donations of €50 x3 €10x1 €5x1



SACRISTAN SOUGHT— Ballygall Parish is currently advertising for the position of Sacristan. Closing date is **Friday, December 30**. Application with CV to be sent to fr.josephryan@ballygallparish.ie. Visit www.ballygallparish.ie for more details.



THE PARISH LINK TEAM WISH ALL PARISHIONERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

