



Parish Link

Parish 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

*St Columba's Parish,
Iona Road, Glasnevin.*

Parish Information

Sacristy: Maura Sweeney

Sacristy: Moira Dolan

Administration: Sheila Hallahan

**Administration and Chair of
Parish Pastoral Council:**
Séamus Treacy

Finance: Eddie O'Connor

Pastoral: Pádraigín Clancy

Pastor: Joe McDonald

Parish Website:
www.ionaroadparish.ie

FB: Iona Road Parish

Instagram: ionaroadparish

Email: ionaroadparish@
gmail.com

Please send info for Parish
Link to parishlink@gmail.com
or submit to office.

MASS TIMES ST COLUMBA'S

Saturday Vigil: 6.00PM

Sunday: 11.00AM

Daily: 10.30AM except
Tuesday

MASS TIMES ST ALPHONSUS

Daily 5.45

Saturday / Sunday 9.30AM

Céad Míle Fáilte Romhaibh

A heartfelt welcome and congratulations to all the girls and boys, and their families, from St Columba's and St Vincent's National Schools, who are making First Holy Communion this weekend. Well done everyone, on all your preparation at home, in school and in Church. Enjoy this great day as you receive Jesus Christ in Communion for the first time!

Congratulations!

to Mr Séamus Treacy – a long standing member of St Columba's Parish - who was recently appointed to Administration at St Columba's.
Go nÉirí go geal leat a Shéamuís!

IONA AND DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION – AGM:

Maples Hotel Wednesday May 13th
7.30PM All Welcome

IONA ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Meeting Thursday 17th May 11AM in
Annex - re; trip to Malahide Castle on
May 21st

ST COLUMBA'S FLOWER SOCIETY

Annual Collection will be held
weekend May 23/ 24th after masses.

Monastery of St. Alphonsus:

Christian Meditation:

Wednesday May 29th 7.30PM
All Welcome!

St Vincent de Paul – € 584 Euro
raised in April. Next Collection: May
9/10th. Thank You!

Thank you!

to all from Music Ministry and all volunteers and attendees who took part in, and supported our recent Springtime concert ; 'All in the April Evening'. The occasion was a great success and raised € 2,715euros towards ongoing maintenance of our Church.



Confirmation for children of all three National schools in our Parish takes place on May 21st

Welcome to Babies: Aéla Rose, Emmet, Edward, Rhys and Henry, and welcome also to Children; Ochucko, Oghenvwede and Ojanomare who were baptized here at St Columba's since Easter. May their Baptism be the first step on a great adventure with Jesus Christ!

Our Deepest Sympathies to the Families of the late; Tony Barnwell, Rita Fitzsimons(née Quigley) and Eddie O'Connor. Solas na bhFlaitheas dóibh. May they Rest in Peace.



RUMBLINGS FROM THE BUNKER:

THE RIDDLE OF THE HOLY BREAD

Recently I was a little alarmed to hear someone, whom I thought would know better, display a huge ignorance with what happens at Mass. Of, course there are many things that happen at this beautiful and most extraordinary of experiences that we call The Mass or The Eucharist, including sorrow for sin, the communal expression of what we believe in the Creed and a missioning back into the world to spread, and indeed live, the Gospel. However, at the core of this celebration, which is the greatest prayer this side of the tomb, is the fact that we are fed. When we attend Mass we come to the place where we get the best possible food for our souls. At Mass we are nourished at the deepest level of our being. We are nourished by Word and Sacrament. We are fed by the Word of God and by the Body and Blood of Jesus. My key point in this 'rumbling' is that we are rapidly losing our appreciation of the Mass. Again, only the other day, I overheard a conversation between a few people who attended both primary and secondary Catholic schools and their comments included: 'the white thing the priest holds up at Mass', 'the Holy Bread', 'the magic wafer', 'it's not really Jesus', 'it's a symbol', and 'it represents him!' This gives us an idea of how far we have slid from the truth, an idea of how close we are to losing that which is most sacred.

What we stand to lose is the summit and source of our liturgical life. We stand to lose the very heart of the Church. We stand to lose an appreciation of Christ present amongst us in his Body and Blood. We are losing respect for the greatest of all prayers. There is a tsunami of ignorance engulfing the Irish Church at the moment and nowhere is that more evident than with regard to the Eucharist. It is quite extraordinary that we often see people in our churches having a fullscale conversation, chewing gum, drinking, water, Coke and recently Red Bull. Indeed, I recently encountered a new one, at least for me, that was a lady doing her makeup in church. All the while a few feet away is the pinnacle of God's love for us. Just a few feet away from the smacking of our gum and our idle chatter, is Jesus. Jesus the only Son of the Father. The Father of all. The Creator of all and everything. The Father who does not give up on us. The Father who loved us so much that he gave his only Son. He did this so that sin and darkness and greed and selfishness would not win. Just a few feet away from our disrespect is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus who suffered so cruelly, who suffered torture and agony for us. What we are speaking of here is of course ignorance in the purest sense of that word, as in not knowing. This is the only explanation of our behaviour, because if we actually realised what we are disrespecting, I think we would be horrified!

At least let's try and kill off the notion of Holy Bread! Actually, there is no such thing. What do I mean? Think about it, it's almost like a Holy Riddle. The Sacred Riddle of the Eucharist. The Bread at the back of the church waiting to be brought up in the Offertory Procession, is not holy. Actually, it is ordinary. To stress its ordinariness is much more important than you might think. This bread is as ordinary as the Crib and the Cross. It's ordinariness is connected with our humanity, and the fact that God became one of us, in Jesus. Now the second part of this holy equation is that by the time this bread is given to us at Holy Communion it is no longer bread, but it sure is holy! Infact it is the Holiest of Holies. It is no longer Bread, neither ordinary bread nor holy bread, it is now Jesus present among us. One of the things that hampers our understanding of this, is that, we have, as a people, a great legacy of both superstition and magic. Neither of these are at work here. What is at work then? How does it happen? How does the bread and wine become Jesus present among us? It is through the holy breath of God that this happens. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that the miracle of the Mass happens.

So, let's be clear: the Bread at Mass before the Consecration is not holy. It is a wafer, unblessed ordinary bread. After the Consecration, and by the time we go up to receive, it is: Holy Communion, the Sacred Host, the Body of Christ, Christ present amongst us. The words of St. Thomas, My Lord and my God

Fraternally, JoeMcD. 10.05.26