



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020

Dear Members of St. Columbanus Church Community,

Greetings to you, one and all. Firstly I very greatly miss meeting you at the Church and around the parish, it is the strangest of times.

Last Sunday I had hoped to greet you from 11am Mass in Ballybrack Church, sadly, I was asked to stay at home, like many of yourselves. I do not find it easy, and I know that you feel exactly the same. In a peculiar way, I feel quite safe now. Before this cocooning I was very anxious and a good bit nervous, now I feel more secure.

The restriction and the boredom are very hard to manage, yet I believe we are fortunate. Yes, fortunate! When I look around the world I see lots of people who do not have water, communities all living together without any space at all.

We have restrictions, but we have a lot going in our favour. We miss family, yet without question they keep in contact and support us. We have friends who do the same, and good neighbours. There are wonderful Health Care workers, people in shops and supermarkets, all kinds of unsung heroes who keep our whole country going and who wish to keep us safe.

A sincere "Thank You" to Fr. Tom Dalzell and many priests like him who keep us linked together in our parishes and groupings.

I join him some days at Mass by webcam at Ballybrack Parish webcam, (other days I say Mass in the house and ALWAYS remember you, my sisters and brothers)

"Thank You" to John Matthews and Teresa Devlin, our wonderful parish staff, for keeping our Church open 3 days a week, and keeping it safe and clean, and for helping us all stay together as a parish family. Thanks to them you will get this letter.

Pope Francis reminded us all last week that down through history there have been plagues and disasters. We face this particular one.


Is it God's judgement on us? Pope Francis reminds us that we must judge ourselves. What is life all about, what are the things that count? How will we help those much worse off than ourselves?

Is God abandoning us? Absolutely not!! Is He not rather asking us once again to look after each other, to be brothers and sisters, to care for each other, especially the weakest?

Many of us are not as strong as once we were. Our youth are minding us, shielding us, caring for us. We can help them by our prayers and daily Mass on RTE or at Ballybrack Church. All of us know well that we need to pray, to put all in God's hands. We know that our vision is limited.

Please join in prayer, at 1pm each day, with doctors and health care workers, for all those suffering from the Corona Virus and for the wisdom to find lasting solutions.

Holy Spirit Guide us all.



Fr. Enda

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