



# Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



## World Day Of Migrants And Refugees

Pope Francis has announced the theme for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees to take place on 26 September, which this year is “Towards an ever wider ‘we’.”

The Migrants and Refugees Section of the Vatican’s Dicastery for Integral Human Development said the overarching theme of the day is divided into six sub-themes. Pope Francis’ message will “stress the importance of being attentive to the entire human family through an inclusive Church that reaches out and is capable of creating communion in diversity.”

*A copy of the Pope’s letter is on the notice board at the back of the church*

To view Pope Francis’ message in full, log onto: [migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/](https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/)

Catholics around the world are invited to pray for refugees and migrants in their many difficulties, and to learn more about the benefits which migration offers.

### Prayer for Migrants, Refugees And Asylum Seekers

*God, no one is a stranger to You  
and no one is ever far from Your loving care.*

*In Your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.  
Those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost,  
and those who have been exiled from their homes.*

*Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,  
and help us always to show Your kindness to strangers and those in need.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Who too was a refugee and migrant who travelled to another land  
in search of home.*

*Amen*



~Nouwen Network

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### Safeguarding Sunday



Our annual diocesan Safeguarding Sunday will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The theme for this year’s event is “Safeguarding in a pandemic”

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### It’s 2061!

Forty years ago, in 2020-2021, something big happened. The whole world changed almost instantly. Everyone on the planet was wearing masks. The 2020 Olympics had been postponed until 2021 and were being held in Tokyo with no one allowed in the stands. People were distancing themselves from each other, staying 6 feet apart.

Today, we look back on photos and videos from that era and think it was nearly as weird as bell-bottom jeans and tie-dyed tee-shirts. Those were the “Coronavirus Years.” Tons of books have since been written on both the immediate and long-term effects of this virus.

But it was also the time of the greatest boom of the baby-boomers. (A few are still alive but are now over 100-years-old!) The “boomers” exploded onto the grandparenting scene right at the time when the church was in crisis. Attendance at church services had plummeted. When members of the baby boom generation looked around on any given Sunday, it seemed like all they saw was white hair or no hair!

But the “boomers” were a restless lot. They were doers and achievers. This was a time to fight for what they believed in. It was a time to pass their faith on to their children’s children—to us.

The church did not die in the coronavirus era. It went through a deep crisis, but we didn’t know it at the time; we were just kids. What we saw were grandparents who believed something – something that brought them deep joy and immense gladness. They stood strong during the chaos of the 20’s. That stability was what we wanted and needed for ourselves.

Today, we look back on those grandparents as some of the church’s greatest missionaries! They never brought the gospel to foreign lands. They were not young. But they had great passion. They were our grandparents, grandparents on mission, a mission to keep faith alive. **Thank God, they did.**

~Mike Shaughnessy, Grandly Missions

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