



# Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown



## Extracts from one of Pope Francis' homilies (World Youth Day, Lisbon 2023)



**"There is space in the Church for everyone... everyone, everyone, everyone!" "For everyone, *para todos*,"** No one is useless; no one is superfluous; there is room for everyone. Just as we are, everyone... 'But Father, I am a wretch; I am a sinner: is there room for me?' There is room for everyone." For, "God loves us; God loves us as we are, not as we wish to be or as society expects us to be: as we are. He loves us with our flaws, limitations, and desires to progress in life.

God calls us in this way: have faith because God is a father, and he is a loving father, a father who loves us." Look at Zacchaeus in the Gospel. Jesus looks at him first, loves him first, and invites Himself to his home, regardless of the scandalized comments from onlookers.

The Church has room for everyone, just as it did for Zacchaeus. His was an unprecedented surprise, a free gift, bestowed purely by grace.

Jesus' gaze, His call, turned Zacchaeus's life upside down: because he was loved like never before.

**What else do we need if not Someone to embrace us as we are, making us feel special, wanted, loved, and forgiven? What else do we need if not to be assured: there is room for us too, regardless of our circumstances?**

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### Season of Creation



**In July Bishop Martin Hayes of the Irish Bishop's Conference reminded us:**

In recent days, Met Eireann released statistics to say that the past month of June was the warmest June in 83 years. We are being impacted by global warming which is having a particular effect on Europe.

The world Day of Prayer for Creation on September 1<sup>st</sup> and the Season of Creation which follows, instituted by Pope Francis and concluding on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4<sup>th</sup>, allows us opportunity to renew our commitment to cherish and conserve the natural world and its creatures.

We are encouraged to return 30% of our parish grounds to nature and we are encouraged to join strongly in the activities for the Season of Creation

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### Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage To Lourdes. Associate Membership of the Pilgrimage Annual Appeal



Since the beginning of the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage 74 years ago, thousands of people have travelled with the help of volunteers and have experienced the comfort and the grace of being in the presence of Our Lady; and for volunteers, young and old, their experience of travelling with the sick has often been life changing.

The funds from the annual Associate Membership appeal helps subsidise the cost of bringing a sick pilgrim to Lourdes. At present, we ask each sick pilgrim to contribute €590.00 towards the cost of his or her travel and stay.

We never refuse an application on the grounds of the person not being able to afford this sum. The actual cost per sick pilgrim is over €1,000.

**We are appealing to all parishes for support in helping us raise the much needed funds towards these subsidies.**

(Envelopes available at the back of the Church, which can be placed in the weekend collection baskets or in the letter box at the back of the church)

The Associate Membership also, apart from any contribution you might make, gives you the opportunity to sign the blue sheets that are at the doors of the church today.

These sheets will be taken to the grotto at Lourdes and your intentions will be remembered at the Masses we celebrate there. If you could take away the prayer card too, please pray the prayer on it for the safety of all our pilgrims this year.

~ Fr. Martin Noone, Director & Fr. Declan Blake, Assistant Director

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### Rathmichael Historical Society's 2023 Summer Series of lectures



This year's series of lectures has the theme 'Early Norman Ireland' which will explore various consequences of the invasion of 1169, particularly in the century that followed. The five lectures will cover the introduction of new legal and administrative frameworks, the new institutions and architecture and women's roles and status. Lectures will take place at 8 p.m. on the five evenings Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> August in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill.

For more information on these lectures or to become a member, visit our website [rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie](http://rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie)

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