



Parish of Saint Columbanus, Loughlinstown

Building Hope With Open Hearts



Extract from a pastoral letter from Archbishop Dermot Farrell:

Building Hope

JESUS' CONCERN IS FOR OUR HEARTS.. He seeks to draw us close, heart-to-heart with Him.

'Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest'. Jesus calls us to closeness with God, into intimacy with the One who gives us life, and invites us into the relationship that brings us into fullness of life. It is in the depth of our hearts that we meet God as we respond to the mysteries of life, and are brought into silence and wonder.

With Christ - through Him, and with Him and in Him - we live out the Gospel, we live out of the words and actions of Jesus that have been handed on to us. This relationship with Jesus is also the foundation of *Building Hope*.

It is in this context that I speak to you today about the *Building Hope Pastoral Strategic Planning Resource 2025 - 2027*.

Workshops associated with the *Building Hope Planning Resource*, which I ask parish leaders to attend, will seek to guide us, using a synodal method of PRAYER - REFLECTION - PLANNING.

In all our parishes, in every parish of this Diocese, there are vibrant communities who live out the Gospel, who live out the words and actions Jesus has handed on to us. Those vibrant communities may now be small, but smallness is not the issue. Smallness was never an issue for Jesus, and smallness is never an issue for His Heavenly Father, who sees the potential in what He has created: **God sees what things can be. God looks at what creation can give, what all can become.**

Copies of the full letter are available on the table at the back of the Church

Mass For The Sick

Mass for the sick will take place on **Thursday 12th September at 12noon.**

If you know of anyone who may need a lift to this Mass

Please contact Teresa in the parish office by **Thursday 5th September on 01-2824085**

Cill Iníon Léinin Abbey Cemetery Ecumenical Blessing

You are invited to visit the ancient 6th Century Cill Iníon Léinin Abbey Cemetery, which is being re-opened to the public on Sunday the 8th of September at 3pm. Fr. Behan from St. Alphonsus Church will be there to give an Ecumenical Blessing, followed by Rob Goodbody, a local historian, who will give a talk about the site. There will also be a "Voices from the Grave" monologue at the Dillon Family grave, describing life in the 1860s, when two young members of this family were buried there. This will all be followed by refreshments. The Cemetery is on Marino Avenue West, just off Killiney Hill Road.

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to Killiney.ancientchurch@gmail.com

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

Extract from Pope Francis's letter:

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

"Hope and Act with Creation" is the theme of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, to be held on 1st September 2024. The theme is drawn from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:19-25), where the Apostle explains what it means for us to live according to the Spirit and focuses on the sure hope of salvation that is born of faith, namely, newness of life in Christ.

Let us begin with a question, one perhaps without an immediately obvious answer. If we are truly believers, *how did we come to have faith?* It is not simply because we believe in something transcendent, beyond the power of reason, the unattainable mystery of a distant and remote God, invisible and unnameable. Rather, as Saint Paul tells us, it is because *the Holy Spirit dwells within us.* **See parish notice board for the full copy of the letter**

Pope Francis' constant invitation is to become beggars of the essential, of what gives meaning to our life, first of all by divesting ourselves of what weighs down our daily life, following the example of a climber who, on the rock face, must rid himself of excess in order to be able to climb more rapidly. By doing so, we discover that the value of human existence does not consist in things, in successes achieved, in the race of competition, but first and foremost in that relationship of love that sustains us, rooting our journey in trust and hope: **it is the friendship with God, which is then reflected in all other human relations, that is the foundation of the joy that will never fail.** Cardinal Parolin on the occasion of the 45th Meeting for Friendship among Peoples (Rimini 20th-25th August, 2024.)

Fr. P. Enda Lloyd

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