

St. Michael's Parish

Parish Priest: Fr. Louis McDermott OMI,

Parish Secretary: Therese Redmond

Parish Pastoral Worker: Pádraigín Clancy

Youth Worker: Pádraig Corcoran

Child Safeguarding Reps: Walter Balfe & Philomena McSorley

52a & 52b Bulfin Rd, Inchicore, Dublin 8. Tel 453 1660

Parish Office: Mon-Fri: 9.30-12.30

Email: stmichaelsparishomi@gmail.com

www.stmichaelsinchicore.ie

Weekday Mass: (Mon-Fri) 10am

Liturgy of the Word & Communion Service on Wednesdays 10am

Sunday Mass: 6.30pm (Vigil), 9am & 11am (Family Mass)

The church is open from 9am-12.00pm: Monday—Friday.



St. Michael's Parish Inchicore

Fr Louis writes....

This is my first opportunity to get in touch with most of you since the church closed on March 25th. I am very pleased to be able to do so now. I want to begin by expressing my sympathy to the families in our community who lost a loved one since the government restrictions were enforced. My heart goes out to all those who were unable to be with their loved ones before they died. Not being able to have a 'proper funeral' which is so important in the grieving process, is very difficult. We hope to have a special celebration of the lives of the deceased, whenever possible. The deadly coronavirus has reminded us of how vulnerable we are and also how special each one of us is.

It was strange, this year not having the Easter celebrations in the church. I know many of you availed of the opportunity to follow the ceremonies on TV, and you continue to watch Mass on TV and on social media. Some watch the prayer reflections on the Oblate website.

Being cocooned or restricted in our movements may mean we have more time to read, ponder and reflect on life. It gives us an opportunity to reflect on the light that the Easter event - the suffering, death and Resurrection of Christ - shines, on what is happening, in our community, and all over the world. We are witnessing incredible suffering: from the virus; from bereavement; from loss of livelihood etc. We also see the selfless, life-giving love, of frontline staff in hospitals and care homes, a high percentage of whom are the new Irish, including many from our own community. We see those who continue to provide food and essential services, including our local shops.

Not being able to come together in a church gives a new meaning to the words 'He is not here; He is Risen!'. He is everywhere, including in the darkest places and in the bursting forth of new life in creation. Pope Francis in his Easter message used the Biblical image of the storm at sea to remind the world that we are all in the same boat and we need to row together. It was a call to humanity to unify; a plea to world leaders to find ways in which we can live together in 'our common home'.

Finally, the Taoiseach indicated on Friday that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and that we may look forward to coming together again in July. There is hope, especially with golf courses opening first, on the 18th of May!!!
God Bless and keep safe, *Louis*

Thanks Gill.

A word of appreciation and thanks to Gillian Ennis, Goldenbridge Ave. Gillian is designing candles, and has chosen a rainbow logo design in recognition of all frontline workers. The candles are on sale in P&P Meats, with all proceeds going towards Pieta House. To date over €500 has been raised.



Exam students

Good wishes go to all students, especially those in exam years. Stressful at all times, this is a particular difficult time because of all the uncertainty regarding this year's exams. We are thinking also of the students going into 2nd level who are unable to meet up with their friends before moving on.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Tomorrow my sister will be among those numbers, among the throwaway lines
an older person with underlying health conditions....

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Her underlying conditions were
Love, Kindness, Belief in the essential goodness of humankind, uproarious laughter,
Forgiveness, Compassion, A storyteller,
A survivor, A comforter, A force of nature,
And so much more....

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She was a woman who spanned the seven ages. A mother. A grandmother, A great grandmother, A sister, A Friend, An aunt, A carer, A giver
And so, she joins the thousands

THEY ARE NOT STATISTICS

They are the wives, mothers, children, fathers, sisters, brothers
The layers of all our loved ones....

(extract from a poem written by Dorothy Duffy in honour of her sister. April 2020)

Connecting during lockdown

Thanks to modern technology, the following online services are available:

Please keep an eye on our Parish Website: stmichaelsinchicore.ie

Please join in conversation with us on our new Facebook Page. :

stmichaelsinchicore

Daily prayer can be found at: Oblates.ie

ZOOMING !

Consideration is being given to holding some of our parish meetings- business and prayer - online.

Pádraigín, our pastoral worker will guide us through this process.

Pádraigín can be contacted at pclancystmichaels@gmail.com

Parish Finances

Thanks to parishioners who continue to drop their Family Offering Envelopes into the Parish Office. This is much appreciated at this time. If it would be more convenient to contribute by Standing order, please call to Fr. Louis for a Form.

TROCAIRE depends in no small way to the Lenten Campaign to fund their many humanitarian projects. And like many fund-raising agencies, the Covid-19 pandemic is greatly impacting their work. If you wish to drop your **Trocaire Lenten** box into the parish office, it will be kept until such time as they can be safely returned to the office of Trocaire.

In sympathy Pray for

Fred Ward, Kickham Road
Angela Brazil, Bulfin Court
Phyllis Bolton, Emmet Crescent
Mary Johnston, Goldenbridge Ave
Billy Quirke, Goldenbridge Ave
Alice Carr, Devoy Road
Elena Barnes, late of Inchicore
Marie Maguire, Emmet Road
John Gallagher, The Coombe
John Murphy OMI
Tom Scully OMI
John Nolan OMI
Tony Carroll OMI

May they Rest in Peace

Our thought are with the families of the bereaved at this difficult time.

Church Opening

From this week the church will open (Bulfin Rd. door) from 9-12.30 for personal prayer. The area in front of Our Lady's altar will be open and a hand sanitizer will be available.

We will have a clearer idea of when morning Mass will resume for next month's newsletter.

1st Communion

Regrettably, 1st Communion will not go ahead this month. The celebration is deferred until September, at the earliest. Details will come from the schools and from the parish newsletter.

Food Bank

St Patrick's Athletic FC, Frontline MC (Kavanagh House) and the Dublin South City Partnership have established a food bank at Richmond Park in response to the Covid-19 crisis. This food bank will serve households in the Inchicore Kilmainham and Bluebell area identified as vulnerable at this time. Donations of non perishable food items welcome. Donations can be dropped into 125 Emmet Road Inchicore between 12pm-2pm on Saturdays and between 2pm-4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Support Line for Older

People ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am -8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**. Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

Our Lady of Lourdes N.S.

Despite the school being closed, names are now being accepted for all classes for the school term in September. You can contact Ms Tonya Hanly, the school principal at principal@ourladyoflourdesns.ie or 0866049036.

The teachers and staff look forward to welcoming their students back in September.

This new reality !

Social distancing, self-isolation, lockdown, these previously unfamiliar terms have now become part of everyday life. We're all learning to live with a new reality at least for now, as we stay at home, work remotely, home school our children and try to stay as active as best we can.

This time of physical distancing is a time to have a greater awareness of our connection with the natural world. Nature doesn't care about lockdowns. Birdsong has never sounded sweeter, the explosion of new life has never felt more vivid and comforting than now. We are all part of one giant community of nature, and with the lovely weather of late, let us delight in the beauty of the cherry and apple blossoms.

*I said to the cherry tree
'sister speak to me of God'
And the cherry tree blossomed.*

