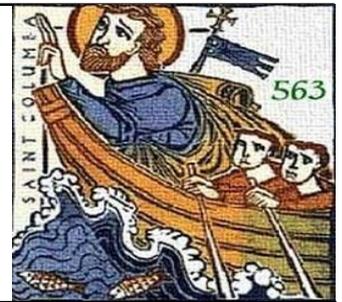


PARISH of TOGHER



Sunday 22nd November 2020

PRIESTS OF OUR PARISH

Monsignor Jim Carroll PP. Big Strand Road, Clogherhead A92 T938 Tel 041-9889335 Email: jcarlpp73@gmail.com

Fr Tom Daly PE, AP. Boicetown, Togher Tel 041-6852110

St. COLMCILLE'S PASTORAL AREA CONTACTS:-

Fr Paddy Rushe 086 8807470

Fr Paul Byrne 982 2121

Fr Martin McVeigh 982 2224

A Thought from Monsignor Jim

"Don't forget the poor" is almost like a subtext to the ministry of Pope Francis. I can't believe we overlooked last Sunday as "World Day of the Poor"! Not to worry - today's Gospel from Matthew (25:31-46) puts it back at the top of our agenda! It helps us fix our gaze on what's essential and overcome the barriers of indifference - don't forget the poor.

Pope Francis reminds us: The Word of God transcends space and time, religions and cultures. Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity, is a condition for a fully human life. The decision to care for the poor cannot be conditioned by the time available or by private interests. God's grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first.

The ability to "stretch forth our hand" shows that we possess the capacity to act in ways that give meaning to life. A hand held out is a sign, a sign that immediately speaks of closeness, solidarity and love. If we're restricted from doing so physically now - we can still do it with an open heart. So many outstretched hands have defied contagion and fear in order to offer support and consolation.

This pandemic arrived suddenly and caught us unprepared. This has made us all the more aware of the presence of the poor in our midst and their need for help. And we can't leave it all to St Vincent de Paul!

"Stretch forth your hand to the poor"

Challenges the attitude of those who prefer to keep their hands in their pockets and remain unmoved by situations of poverty in which they are often complicit.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" Matthew's Gospel today is close to the bone.

In this journey of daily encounter with the poor, the Mother of God is ever at our side. More than any other, she is the Mother of the Poor. May our prayer to Mary, Mother of the Poor, unite these, her beloved children, with all those who serve them in Christ's name. And may that prayer enable outstretched hands to become an embrace of shared and rediscovered deep humanity. With heartfelt thanks to Pope Francis. *Monsignor Jim Carroll PP*

THANKING YOU ALL FOR MINDING EACH OTHER.

All Public Masses are suspended under Level 5 Restrictions

Our Churches are only open for private prayer. All Masses will be celebrated in private.

Join Monsignor Jim this Sunday on the webcam & on Facebook for Mass @ 10am

See www.churchmedia.tv (scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the picture 'Church of St Columcille, Togher') or 'Mass in Togher, Louth' Facebook page

**Next week on Friday 27th November Mass @ 10am and on Sunday 29nd Nov @ 10am
Mass for the First Sunday of Advent and as above on the webcam and on Facebook.**

Sunday Mass for our Pastoral Area is available to view on www.churchmedia.tv

(scroll down to St Columcille's Pastoral Area Oratory, Termonfechin and click on Oratory camera) @ 11.30am.

Recently Deceased We pray for Patsy Rogers, Adamstown and Charlene Reilly, Salterstown,
May they Rest in the Peace of Christ.

A Prayer in the face of the coronavirus.

Dear God, we turn to you in our need. We pray for all whose lives are being affected by COVID 19. Look upon us in your compassion and love, protect our families. Deliver us from the virus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen.

Gospel – Matthew 25:31-46

I was naked and you clothed me; sick, and you visited me

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. 'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." 'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." 'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

'Strictly' in St Borchill's Dysart, St Colmcille's, Togher & St Finian's Dillonstown

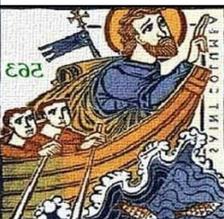
An opportunity for quiet meditation "Sitting in Silence". Contemplation in a place of prayer.

In Dysart Church on Saturdays from 11am to 4pm & Togher & Dillonstown Churches will be open daily. Come for an hour or any part of an hour. Call in and light a candle and say a prayer in these difficult times.

Social distancing applies. **Strictly for solitary prayer only.**

An initiative of Togher Parish Pastoral Council.

Mini Advent Retreat on Zoom For three sessions, during Advent, you are invited to take part in a mini-retreat that will explore the themes of Faith, Hope and Love. The retreat will be led by Fr Billy Swan, St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy and will take place from Tuesday 1st to Thursday 3rd December beginning at 8pm. To take part, all you need to do is send an email to thehookoffaith@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link. Come and join us to prepare for Christmas.



"Just a Thought"
Weekly reflections by
Monsignor Jim Carroll

"Just a Thought" On sale this weekend, a new publication from Monsignor Jim entitled "Just a Thought". It is a collection of his thoughts and reflections from his first year in Togher Parish. Costing just €5 a copy, it will make an ideal Christmas gift. Available in our local shops.

Prayer for Vocations O Jesus, send labourers into your fields, which are awaiting holy apostles, saintly priests, heroic missionaries and dedicated sisters and brothers. Enkindle in the hearts of men and women the spark of a vocation. Grant that Christian families may desire to give your Church, helpers in the work of tomorrow. AMEN

Senior Citizens Christmas dinner The Glyde Inn in conjunction with Togher.info will deliver free Christmas Dinner to the senior citizens on the evening of Tuesday 1st December. To avail call The Glyde Inn 042 9372350 Saturdays from 5, or Sunday from 12-7.



"Just a Thought" Your plans should be flexible enough to weather the changes in circumstances and conditions which the future will undoubtedly bring. *You do not know what will happen tomorrow.*
James 4:14

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Last Week a total of €664.00 was received in envelopes & €180 in donations directly to bank. Thanks for your support.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH. Some parishioners don't make it to Sunday Mass or may not be going at all for whatever reason, yet want to help out Togher Parish at this difficult time. All contributions would be gratefully accepted by Mons Jim either personally or directly through the bank. See details below. Thank you.

Remember you can contribute to the Parish in any of the following ways **1:** Parish Envelopes returning your envelopes directly to Msgr Carroll, Big Strand Road, Clogherhead, Co Louth. A92 T938 or to any member of the Finance Committee **2:** On-line, directly through the bank, our account details are as follows; **Account Name:** Togher Parochial No 1 A/C **IBAN :** IE83 BOFI 9034 2944 5868 67, please put your name in the reference/details box. **3:** Through the Archdiocesan website visit www.armagharchdiocese.org and locate the "Donate to our Parishes" button.

Articles for our parish newsletter can be forwarded to the Parish office by email at togherparishoffice@gmail.com or by text to Ann on 087-6486809 before 2pm on Wednesdays.