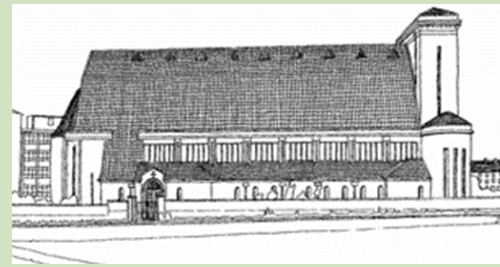


PRAYER FOR ST COLUMBA'S PARISH

Almighty Father, we wish to commit our parish of St Columba of Iona into Your merciful hands. We want to be a vibrant and flourishing parish formed after your heart, a family of missionary disciples of Jesus where love and service spread out from us to everybody. Touch the hearts of all of us and everybody within our parish to experience once again the power of the risen Christ so that our hearts can be filled with your love, joy, courage, strength and unity. We commit to you, in a special way, the sick, the housebound, the struggling, even the weary. May Mary our mother be always close to us her children in all our hour of need. We make all these prayers through the merits of Jesus Christ your son. Amen.

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



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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

READINGS

1st reading—Acts 8:5-8.14-17 ; Psalm 65; 2nd Reading— 1 Peter 3:15-18

GOSPEL—John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.’

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

What is the commandment of Jesus? In John 13:24-35—just before this Gospel—Jesus had told the disciples: “I give you a new commandment: LOVE ONE ANOTHER JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”.

Imagine how the apostles and disciples lived and stayed with Jesus for about 3 years. He knew them through and through. He knew all their weaknesses, their idiosyncrasies, their stubbornness and raw human instincts, vengefulness and vindictiveness. Yet He never complained about them, He understood them, accepted them and loved them, He put up with them even to the extent of calling them His friends, and died forgiving all. If Jesus could accept, love and forgive the imperfect apostles and disciples, if Jesus could love my imperfect neighbours, my imperfect husband or wife, my imperfect children, my imperfect friends and co-workers, the imperfect drug addict etc, who am I to condemn somebody else, to refuse to love and forgive my husband, my wife, my co-workers, my neighbours, my friends—me who is no better than them. Do I have any excuse for not being loving towards others?

We don't love others only when it is convenient or so that they can pay us back—that is called ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER. We are invited to get out of our comfort Zones like the good Samaritan did to the wounded man in Luke 10:25-37. We are not told to love only those who are lovable and nice to us—THAT IS CALLED SELF-SERVING LOVE. We are invited to love even those who hit us, who malign us, who hate us, who tell lies about us. We are not told to love only those who in our own estimation are qualified to be loved, people in our own social class for example. Remember what Jesus said “WHAT YOU DO TO THE LEAST—NOT THE GREATEST—OF MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU DO IT TO ME”

This was the great turning point in the life of St Therese of Lisieux—realising that her love for the nuns in her convent only expressed itself in words, that she didn't love them as Jesus loves them. If Jesus can put up with the imperfections of Mr X, and love him sincerely despite that, who am I not to love Mr X too?

ANNOUNCEMENTS 17/5/20

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD: **THURSDAY 21ST MAY** **HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

DAILY MASSES

OFFERED FOR THE INTENTION OF ALL THE PARISHIONERS

HOW TO JOIN OUR SERVICES

**STEP 1. DOWNLOAD ZOOM
APP**



**STEP 2. CLICK 'JOIN' USING:
ID**

523-686-9263
Password: 538289

STEP 3. YOU ARE CONNECTED

PLEASE FEEL FREE
TO CALL THE PARISH
AT ANY TIME IF YOU
FEEL YOU NEED
SOME SPIRITUAL
SUPPORT.

OFFERINGS

WE STILL HAVE A PARISH TO MAINTAIN AND BILLS TO PAY. THEY REFUSE TO STAY AT HOME. PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO PAY BY CHEQUE, PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO ST COLUMBA'S PARISH. IF YOU PREFER TO DONATE THROUGH INTERNET BANKING, PLEASE CALL 07549260379 FOR THE DETAILS. IF YOU WOULD PREFER TO PAY THROUGH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR WEBSITE (SEE PAGE ONE FOR LINKS), WE HAVE THE LINKS THERE TOO. THANKS AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU.