

trusted completely. We may ask ourselves, “Why put so much trust in a dream in the night?” Although a dream was considered very important in ancient times, it was still a small thing in the face of the concrete reality of life. Yet Saint Joseph let himself be guided by his dreams without hesitation. Why? Because his heart was directed to God; it was already inclined towards him. A small indication was enough for his watchful “inner ear” to recognize God’s voice. This applies also to our calling: God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys his plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. In this way, as he did with Saint Joseph, he sets before us profound and unexpected horizons.

Indeed, Joseph’s dreams led him into experiences he would never have imagined. The first of these upended his betrothal, but made him the father of the Messiah; the second caused him to flee to Egypt, but saved the life of his family. After the third, which foretold his return to his native land, a fourth dream made him change plans once again, bringing him to Nazareth, the place where Jesus would begin his preaching of the Kingdom of God. Amid all these upheavals, he found the courage to follow God’s will. So too in a vocation: God’s call always urges us to take a first step, to give ourselves, to press forward. There can be no faith without risk. Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programmes and comforts, can we truly say “yes” to God. And every “yes” bears fruit because it becomes part of a larger design, of which we glimpse only details, but which the divine Artist knows and carries out, making of every life a masterpiece. In this regard, Saint Joseph is an outstanding example of acceptance of God’s plans. Yet his was an active acceptance: never reluctant or resigned. Joseph was “certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive” (Patris Corde, 4). May he help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God’s dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say “yes” to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints”. *Continued next week* Fr. Michael Carey

**Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass & 8.30am Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass via the Parish webcam**  
**Sat 6.30pm** Muriel Harford  
**Sun 8.30am** In Honour of St Joseph

**Sun 11.15am** Stephen Farrell  
 Patrick (Patsy) Fagan



**Mass intentions for next Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Deirdre Whelan	<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Priests of the Parish
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Vincent Raynor	<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Alice Kelly
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Jenny O’Sullivan	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Eileen McGrory
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Harry Murtagh In Thanksgiving	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Niamh Sheridan
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Christopher & Ann Farren	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Allie Dolan
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Bill Culshaw	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Josie Ryan
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Teresa Cahill	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Bridget Hogan	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**

The Church will be open from 12pm - 1.30pm on Sunday’s only for private prayer. Strict HSE guidelines are in place



**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 8405948**  
**Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277**  
*(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)*  
**Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)**  
**Website: Website: www.swords-parish.com Email:**  
**stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**  
**Facebook: St. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



*My beloved father (Joseph), all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power*



Fourth Sunday of Easter  
**Vocations Sunday**  
*“The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth”*  
**Newsletter Sunday 25th April 2021**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. For over fifty years the universal Church has celebrated this Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This newsletter is an extract from Pope Francis’ homily for Vocations Sunday 2021.

“Dear brothers and sisters,

8th December last, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, marked the beginning of a special year devoted to Saint Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one “so close to our own human experience”. He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God.

God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of “the saints next door”. At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.

Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual’s vocation. The first is dream. Everyone dreams of finding fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty aspirations that ephemeral goals – like success, money and entertainment – cannot satisfy. If we were to ask people to express in one word their life’s dream, it would not be difficult to imagine the answer: “to be loved”. It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life’s mystery. Indeed, we only have life if we give it; we truly possess it only if we generously give it away. Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard, because, through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift. The Gospels tell us of four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). They were calls from God, but they were not easy to accept. After each dream, Joseph had to change his plans and take a risk, sacrificing his own plans in order to follow the mysterious designs of God, whom he

### ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*May the Lord be a sure path beneath your feet,  
a bright light before you,  
a kindly shepherd behind you;  
this day, this night and always.....St. Colmcille (Celebrating 1500 years)*



### **EASTER - Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service**

Continues this week on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** Evening at **7.00pm**  
This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam and should last about 30 minutes  
The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com)

### **Easter Dues**

A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues envelopes. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. *If you have not made a return and would like to there are dues envelopes available at the back of the Church*

### **Mass Intentions**

*How can a book a Mass during these Covid times*

- 1) You can email your request to the Parish Office at [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)
- 2) Call to the Sacristy *before Mass* between 9.40am and 9.55am and *after Mass* from 10.30am to 10.45am or by phone 01-8400547

### **Saint's in the Church's Calendar**

**St. Catherine of Siena, virgin and doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe - Thursday 29th April, (1347-80).** Humble and dauntless Dominican tertiary, who brought peace to her native Siena, to Italy, and to the 14<sup>th</sup> century Europe. She resisted all attempts of her family to find her a suitable husband and spent all her energies on the Church, being able to achieve the pope's return from Avignon to Rome. She is remembered also as a mystic and reformer of religious life. Died aged 33 and proclaimed doctor of the Church in 1970 and patron of Europe in 2000.

### **St. Joseph the worker – Saturday 1st May**

This feast was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII on a day when labour was celebrated in many countries. Jesus was himself 'the son of the carpenter' and St. Joseph presents a wonderful example of how even the most seemingly menial work can be sanctified.

### **4th Sunday of Easter (Day of Prayer for Vocations)**

The image put before us in today's liturgy to describe the person and work of Jesus among his disciples is that of shepherd. It is one which would have been extremely familiar to Jesus' hearers for whom the sight of an individual leading sheep to pasture would have been a common one. We are told that in the Holy Land shepherds lead rather than drive. So sheep follow rather than are driven. Two aspects of this are important. First, to follow involves a free choice. Second, to follow someone means to have confidence in their ability to lead. (Source: St. Paul's Missal).

### **Youth Initiatives- YCD Connected – Bringing Young People Together**

The Young Church Dublin invite you to join our connected group for Young Adults (20's 30's) We meet online every Wednesday, from 8.00-9.00pm for some time of reflection on Scripture and prayer together. It provides an opportunity to connect with other young adults in a community of faith. For more information email: [kirsten.mahon@dublindioocese.ie](mailto:kirsten.mahon@dublindioocese.ie)

### **Teen Hope Connected**

We are starting a new 3 Week Series on Prayer on Wednesdays from 6pm – 7pm. It starts on 21<sup>st</sup> April and continues April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> followed by a 'Games Night' on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Expect some fun, exploring of faith and life, small group discussions, some top class games, and prayer. To register you will need to complete the online parental consent form with your parents here: <https://forms.gle/2uGwM3jnLM1Mwyeu5>

### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

***Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:***

Jerry Murphy

Castefarm



**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** are offering telephone support, please contact Bridget 085 2812985 from Sunday 25th April to Saturday 1st May from 6- 8pm. More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie> It's good to talk. Do not grieve alone or unaided.

*"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted".*

### **Overseas Volunteers Training Course September 2021 - Open to all!**

Viatore Christi, a faith-based development organisation has specialised in the recruitment, training and deployment of overseas volunteers since 1960. VC runs an online volunteer preparation course covering Community Development, Health, Global Awareness, Mission, etc. This is open to all! Once completed, participants can be considered for volunteer roles through VC EU Aid Volunteers #EUAVI programmes. If you want to know more, click on the News section of our website [www.vcvolunteers.ie](http://www.vcvolunteers.ie) or email [info@viatoreschristi.com](mailto:info@viatoreschristi.com)

### **Scripture Note –4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

From the earliest days the apostles encountered hostility from the Jewish leaders just as Jesus himself had. Even so, the First Reading shows Peter fearlessly proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus. He asserts that the stone they rejected (Jesus) has become a cornerstone of a new building. The risen Jesus is the one and only Saviour.

The Gospel presents Jesus as the good shepherd who knows his sheep intimately and is known by them. Unlike the hireling, he is willing to die to protect his sheep.

In the Second Reading John talks about the wonderful love God has shown for us by making us his children. Our future state will be like that of the glorified Jesus. This reading invites us to rejoice in our status as God's adopted children.

If there is a theme in all three readings perhaps it is this: the great love God has shown us in what he has done for us in Jesus, the Good Shepherd and our one and only Saviour.

(Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)