

Vanuatu is a Y-shaped tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean with over eighty islands, sixty-five of which are inhabited. The islands are prone to natural There are seven active volcanoes scattered throughout the islands.

Land is very important to the Ni-Vanuatu and a crucial resource for production. Land is thought to be the precondition of human culture; the human inhabitants merge with the earth in some sense. Land is not viewed as a thing to be owned but as vital to the existence of humans and animals in sustaining their livelihood.

“Land to a Ni-Vanuatu is what a mother is to a baby. It is with land that he defines his identity and it is with land that he maintains his spiritual strength.”

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 Tom McGinley

Sun 8.30am Richard O’Driscoll

Sun 11.15am Nancy & John Donlon

Teresa Beades (MM)

Ciaran Reidy (MM)



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Michael Raftery

Mon 10.00am Paul Burke

Tues 10.00am Mrs Cushen

Tues 10.00am Maisie Dunne

Wed 10.00am Paddy Burke

Wed 10.00am Ellen Green

Thurs 10.00am In Thanksgiving

Thurs 10.00am Paul Clarke

Fri 10.00am Mary & Kevin Greenan

Fri 10.00am Special intention

Sat 10.00am Mary Ryan

Sat 6.30pm Patrick Stafford

Sun 8.30am Vera Barker

Sun 11.15am Gerry Foley

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

The Church will be open from 12pm - 2pm on Sunday’s only for private prayer. Strict HSE guidelines are in place



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Sean McKenna

Drynam Road

John O’Neill

Lissenhall Swords



Lent 2021

The Liturgy Office of Dublin Diocese have resources for lent, **40 Acts of Love for Lent** and **Lent 2021 Our Hope Renewed**. These are available on the Parish website <https://www.swords-parish.com/news--events>

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



3rd Sunday of Lent

World Day of Prayer

“My eyes are always on the Lord”

Newsletter Sunday 7th March 2021



The World Day of prayer is a women-led, global ecumenical movement. Each year on the First Friday of March it hosts a world-wide liturgy celebrated in parishes and religious groupings throughout the world. The Parishes in Swords take their turn in hosting it and this year it was celebrated last **Friday 5th March in Brackenstown Parish** at 12 noon,

Its format is to take a scripture verse and this year it was **‘Build on a strong foundation’** (Mt. 7: 24-27). The liturgy is prepared by different communities in different parts of the world and it focuses on that community. This year is was the peoples of Vanutu.

Through the worship service we hear the voices of the Vanuatu women, whom invite us to focus on the Bible story in Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus tells a story about the kingdom of heaven using the image of a house and the land on which the house is built. Choosing the land on which to build the house is an important decision for people in Vanuatu. The combination of considering the terrain and the climate is crucial in a tropical archipelago located in the South Pacific Ocean prone to earthquakes, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and rising sea levels. On April 6th, 2020, Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold, which had made its way across the Pacific destroying many islands in its wake.

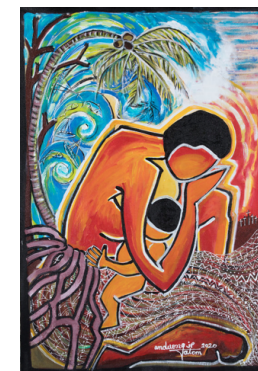
Vanuatu's susceptibility to cyclones is highlighted in the painting chosen to represent WDP 2021, titled “Cyclone Pam II: 13th of March, 2015”. It shows a mother bending and praying over her child. The waves crash over her but a palm tree bends protectively over them. The woman's skirt is modelled after the traditional clothing on Erromango. On the horizon you can see small crosses representing the lives taken by cyclone Pam in 2015.

The Country

The Republic of Vanuatu was founded on its traditional values, Christian principles, and the people’s faith in God as established in the Constitution of 1980, upon gaining independence on July 30, 1980.

Vanuatu is a beautiful country of many islands and people of many ethnic groups and languages. The islands have black and white sandy beaches and beautiful coral reefs with tropical coloured fishes. The forests are full of lovely birds, flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades.

The inhabitants of Vanuatu are known as Ni-Vanuatu. Most are of Melanesian descent with a Polynesian minority on the outlying islands.



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 Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad.

LENT - Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

This special Liturgy takes place during Lent every Tuesday and Thursday Evening at 7.00pm. **The Format is as follows:**

- A Station of the Cross by Timothy Radcliffe OP
- A decade of the Rosary
- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “The Seven Last Words”, by Timothy Radcliffe OP
- The Night Prayer of the Church

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

Trocaire

Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around! The Trociare boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information. **Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.**

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
- 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

Saturday 13th March

Today marks the anniversary of the election in 2013 of Pope Francis as Supreme Pastor of the Church

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group extend our deepest sympathy to ALL bereaved people, especially those who have suffered bereavement during the Covid pandemic. If you would like to speak in confidence to a member please contact Terri - 8403243 from Sunday 7th March to Saturday 13th March. or email the Parish Office stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com - leaving your name and phone number. Your message will be forwarded to Bethany group You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

The Stations of the Cross

I have placed a sheet at the back of the Church detailing the 14 stations. If you want to pray the Stations, feel free to use these sheets but as always **PLEASE TAKE HOME** with you. Do not leave behind in the Church if you have handled it. Thank You

Covid 19 – I am sorry to say that people cannot walk around the Church to pray the stations. You may do so by standing at the back of the Church. If people walk around the Church it will have to be sanitised every day, **which we cannot do.** The back of the Church, where people are confined to, is sanitised each and every day



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for March will take place **Next** weekend, Sunday 14th March. If this seems close to the February collection, it was because February's collection was delayed a week due to the annual Accord collection.

Novena of Grace

The St. Francis Xavier Novena Prayer will be recited at all Masses in St. Colmcille's from the 4th – 12th March inclusive
The Novena of Grave Prayer is available at the back of the Church, please take a copy home with you



COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.

Scripture Note –3rd Sunday of Lent

Jesus' action in cleansing the temple was a protest against the commercialisation of religion and the desecration of the Temple. But it went deeper. It was a symbolic action, in the fashion of an Old Testament prophet (see Jer.7:11; Mal.3:1), through which he passed judgement on the Jewish sacrificial system. He was declaring that temple worship, with its ritual and animal sacrifices, was irrelevant and could do nothing to bring people to God. He was replacing sacrificial worship with spiritual worship.

He was also protesting at the way religion had become narrow, nationalistic, and exclusive. Israel had failed to fulfil her universal mission to humankind. It was God's intention that the Temple should be a house of prayer 'for all nations'. But the Temple remained the jealously-guarded preserve of Israel. No Gentile dared venture, under threat of penalty and death, beyond what was known as the 'court of the Gentiles'. Jesus declared that salvation was not just for the Jews, but for all peoples.

The First Reading is one of the two versions of the Decalogue (The other is Deut.5:6-21). The Ten Commandments are a map of life for a people who enjoy a special relationship with God. They were to be seen as a gift, not a burden. However, Jesus brought in a new and more exacting law – the law of love. He effectively reduced the commandments to two: love of God and love of neighbour. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)