

Who will risk making the fragile people the adornments of the treasure rooms of their hearts? We know many people do this. The quiet people who nurse and wash and dress the decay of old age, those who do the daily rounds in hospitals, those who choose to work in slums and ghettos. Their large heartedness makes the rest of us humble, and our own troubles and preoccupations seem so paltry compared to the huge demands they face with commitment and humour.

We can only try to make more room in our hearts for Jesus' people, and we can do that in the Gospel truth that he will be at the heart of that enterprise. For the rest, we can only pray the unofficial prayer of the ascension:

You chose us, Lord, you must recall;

We never claimed to know it all.

So long, Jesus,

Here come the amateurs. (Source: Seasons of the Word-Fr. Denis McBride C.S.S.R.) **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass Intentions for this coming week St Colmcille's

Mon 8.00am Bernadette Keenan

Mon 10.00am Monica & James Reidy

Tues 8.00am Gerry Breen

Tues 10.00 Swords Demesne Residents Assoc past & present

Wed 8.00am Mary Ryan

Wed 10.00am Special Intention

Thurs 8.00 Brendan O'Reilly

Thurs 10.00am Fr Sean O'Neill

Sun 8.30am Tommy McKitterick

Fri 8.00 am Kay Mansfield

Fri 10.00 Ann York

Sat 16th Julia Whelan

Sat 6.30pm Jim Mulcahy

Sun 11.00am Billy Harrington

Sun 6.30pm Tom, Mary & Sharon Conway

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Mon & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am (Irish) & 12 noon

9 more children from Holywell ETNS make their First Holy Communion today at 12:00 Mass. Warm congratulations to each of you and your families! We look forward to having a cup of tea with you after the ceremony.



Youth Services - CYC

The annual collection for CROSSCARE, Youth Services – Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses next weekend 23rd/24th May. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare reach out to young people who are in need by offering them support, encouragement and hope. The services provided are designed to help these young people fulfil their inherent God given potential (*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*)

The Ascension of the Lord - (World Communications Day)

The Ascension, which is one of the chief feasts of the Church's year, marks the close of the appearances of Jesus which took place after his resurrection and celebrates his exaltation to the Father. It is an essential element of the resurrection of the Lord. It is portrayed as having taken place variously, even by the same author, on the evening of Easter Sunday and forty days later. It underlines the teaching that it is from Heaven that the exalted Christ exercises his power over heaven and earth

Annual Blessing of the Graves will take place on Sunday 28th June beginning with Mass at 4.00 p.m.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948
Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277
(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)
Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)
Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



The Ascension of the Lord

Heart Problems

“Praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens”

Newsletter Sunday 17th May 2015



So, Jesus has gone back home. His work is done and he has left us, although not abandoned us. He has left us to work at our Christianity, to work out the consequences of our faith, to take on the terrible freedom of forming our own lives and being responsible for them.

You may have heard the ancient tale of God's original problem: where to conceal his most precious possession, his own image. He called three wise counsellors, to listen to their suggestions. The first advised God to put his image on top of the highest mountain on earth, where it would be safe forever, but God knew that Everest would be conquered. The second proposed that God should put his image in the depth of the deepest sea; but God saw submarines in his mind's eye and said no. The third suggested that God hide his image on the far side of the moon; but God smiled to himself and said that even man could reach it. Then God had his original idea: "I know where to conceal my image", he said. "I will put it in a place where people will never think of looking; I will put it into their hearts. There, it will never be discovered."

And the three wise counselors nodded in agreement; they knew that God was indeed right. The image of God, the light of God, is in the place where we rarely look: in our heart. We believe God's presence is within us – not as a hiding place, but that we might discover Him at close quarters.

In today's Gospel the disciples are invited to take to heart the great vision of discipleship of all nations, and to let that vision shape their mission. With the departure of Jesus, they are invited to take a lot of people to heart. We know from experience that it is not enough to take Christ to heart. When Christ comes to dwell in our heart, he never comes alone. He arrives complete with entourage and baggage: he brings his loves and his values and his hopes; he brings his dreams and expectations. He also brings disciples and strange friends and hangers-on; he brings the poor and the blind and the crippled; he brings the outcast and the stranger and the legion of the overlooked.

Christ never comes alone. And when he comes we realise that the visiting team may look more like a circus parade than a divine procession. Like the innkeepers of the world, we might be tempted to put up a "no vacancy" sign, to tell Jesus that we have no room in our heart for his busload of supporters and for his theological baggage. But one thing is certain: we cannot take him in and leave the rest outside.

Long before his ascension, Jesus took a lot of people to heart. He suffered because of his passionate love for others. He paid a price for taking so many people to heart. But he treasured them, in all their pettiness and lopsided resolve, with all their thin aspirations and crazy ambitions, with all their private preoccupations and hidden fears. With all of this, his heart began to look more like an emergency ward than a treasure room.

The challenge of Jesus is to open our hearts to his kind of people. When we let them in, he slips in among them. Who will take to heart the poor and the elderly, the sick and the Scrooges of this world?

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “ Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age,
alleluia ”



First Holy Communion-BNS

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday. I thank all involved. Fr. Peter McCarron, chaplain to the Boys School and Sr. Mary McLoughney, Mrs Veronica McDermott, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers:

Mr. Jim Bennett(Principal), Ms. Denise Powell; Ms. Teresa Flanagan and Ms. Rachel Lavin(Class Teachers) and Classroom Assistant Mrs. Claire Hegarty, the Music teachers Ms. Blaithin White (Choir Director), Mr Diarmuid Connell, Ms Lisa Hoey, Ms Angela Noonan and organist Mr. John Burke and the 5th class choir. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulations to the boys' parents and families.

Both big days in the life our Parish – Confirmation and Communion went very well this year and they were lovely and prayerful occasions. *Deo Gratias*

Book of Intentions

Just a reminder that at the back of the Church (St. Colmcille's) is a 'Book of Intentions'. I invite you to write prayer requests in it and a special 'Prayer of the Faithful' will be said every Sunday

God's Housekeepers

I want to acknowledge your wonderful contribution to the Parish in keeping the two Churches so clean and tidy for the many liturgies that happen in them.

Sunday Mass

I appreciate that you may be bringing a person with limited mobility to Mass but if you park your cars in front of the gates the wheelchair bound people are finding it difficult to gain access.

Feast for Life

Further to the comment on this course in last week's newsletter, it will take place again this year in two locations. The course itself aims to support Adult Faith Formation in the Archdiocese of Dublin. Further details will be announced in June. If you are interested in learning more about the course, please contact **Ellie** or **Rosemary** in the Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism at (01) 8379253 ext 246/247

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE I ask myself: what does hell mean? I maintain that it is the inability to love.... Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881, Russian writer)

Marriage Matters – Reflect before you change it

The referendum is this coming Friday 22nd May. There is some literature at the back of our churches which I invite you to take home and read. As the heading suggests 'Marriage Matters – Reflect before you change it'

There will be a bus leaving the Star in Swords at 8 a.m. on Pentecost Sunday 24th May To Eddie Stones, Clonfert for a day of prayer Contact Nora Griffin Tel. No 8404247

Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 5th June to raise funds for the redecoration of our Parish Church of St. Colmcille. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event. If you wish to support this very worthy cause please contact John Campbell 087 9079245, Bernie Campbell 086 1519562 or Susan Rallo 086 8152255

Thinking Allowed (as opposed to 'aloud')

This event will be a chaired panel discussion with audience participation. The topic will be “**What is the Spirit saying to the churches?**” The panel will be made up from the leadership of different churches and traditions including among others Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and Archbishop Michael Jackson (Anglican Archbishop of Dublin). The event will take place in **All Hallows College, Gracepark Rd., Drumcondra on Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm**

Ecumenical Bible Week

This event takes place from Sunday 24th May to Sunday 31st May. It consists of 32 events; 18 presenters; 15 venues over 4 days. Its theme is “Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches” (Rev.3:13). The venues nearest to Swords are All Hallows College with the Thinking allowed event on Thursday 28th May (*See above*) and Whitehall Parish with the following 3 talks: Monday 25th May at 8.00pm. “*The gift of the Spirit in the Fourth Gospel*” by Dr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA; Tuesday 26th May at 8.00pm, “*The Holy Spirit in Contemporary Art*” by Amanda Dillon and Wednesday 27th May at 8.00pm, “*Bible, Movies and the Movement of the Spirit*” by Conall O'Cuinn. For further information see Web: www.bibleweek.ie

Parish Holiday

There are still bookings coming in, but it is *slowing down*. **There is a still an opportunity to book!** Our Parish holiday is a lovely and safe way of travelling (especially if you are looking for someone/group to go with on holiday) and seeing a part of the world. Everything is organised to a very high standard. There are organised trips and time for people to do their 'own thing'. ***We have twenty one people booked at the moment – why not consider it!***

Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC will meet this Monday 18th May at 8.15pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road.

Property and Finance Committee

This Committee will meet on Tuesday 19th May at 10.45am in the Parochial House, Seatown Road.