

Slowly, painfully, we seek to allow the Spirit of God to renew the face of the earth. The restoration of society can only be achieved by those who are poor in spirit, gentle, compassionate, hungry for justice, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. Only those who are part of the new creation can hope to build a new world, a better society.

The kingdom of God is established first in our hearts. Unless that happens our efforts will remain generous and well-intentioned but not the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God fashioned our world. The Spirit of God restored our fallen world in Jesus Christ. It is our mission, throughout our lives to share the work of Christ and to renew, through the power of the Spirit, the face of the earth.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions for this coming week St Colmcille's

Mon 8.00am Brendan O'Reilly	Fri 8.00 am Jim Blake
Mon 10.00am Irene Greeley	Fri 10.00am Dec members of Morton Family
Tues 8.00am Cynthia Kelly	Brendan O'Keefe (MM)
Tues 10.00 Venerable Edel Quinn	Sat 10am Noreen Farrell
Wed 8.00am Special intention	Sat 6.30pm Pat & Ella Kearns
Wed 10.00am Leo Callis	Sun 11.00am Pat Whelan
Thurs 8.00 Michael & Eileen Gilloughly & deceased family members	James McGhann Theresa O'Rourke
Thurs 10.00am Kit Barker	Sun 6.30pm Gerard Travers

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently

Philip Reid	Mornington Co Meath
Ciaran Griffin	Mooretown Park
Patrick McCarthy	Balbriggan



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

Thank you to Jean McLoughlin who has undertaken the role of Team Leader for the Baptism Team. Jean is currently arranging for Team members to tag along to Baptism meetings in the Parochial House to learn how these meetings are conducted. We would be delighted to have one or two more volunteers, so please let us know if you might be interested.



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 **this week-end 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*)

Bethany Bereavement Support Group:

The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30pm - 8.30 p.m. at the, Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords - Next Meeting 25th May.

St Colmcille's Annual Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 8th August 2015. For details contact Mary @ 087 2711376, or Ita @01 8402268

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 Feast of Pentecost

Renew the face of the earth

“The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world, alleluia”

Newsletter Sunday 24th May 2015

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth”. Many of us are familiar with this prayer. The late Cardinal Basil Hume wrote a lovely reflection on this prayer titled, ‘Renew the face of the earth’



There are two significant images from the Bible which have to do with beginnings. Both of them lead us to the mystery of God and the mystery of his saving love for the universe he created and for humankind made in his image and likeness. One image is from Genesis in the Old Testament, and the other image is from Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. Both tell us much about the reality of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Genesis sets out in a series of images a primitive but vivid account of how the world came into being

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water” (Gen. 1.1) In the darkness there is a primeval chaos, the swirling waters and the brooding power of God. We are left with a vision of infinite love drawing out of emptiness the beauty of the world, the glory of the heavens, the form and order of all created things.

The second image is to be found in St. Luke's account of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. The words proclaimed were:

“The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of freedom” (Is. 61: 1-2)

Luke had previously described how John had baptised Jesus in the waters of the Jordan and the Holy Spirit had descended on him like a dove. There are indications here surely of a new creation. A new Adam steps from the Jordan and proclaims to the people that a new hope and a new liberation has been given to them.

Jesus Christ walked the length and breadth of Galilee and Judea. Wherever he went he brought health and wholeness, peace and healing, forgiveness and new life. The power of God and the Spirit of God renewed through the face of the earth. This is still our mission and the mission of the Church. It is a mission today of immense complexity and difficulty.

Deep in the heart of humankind, and enshrined in the structures of our world society, is a selfishness and a greed inherited from the first Adam, the first Eve. We, the fallen and sinful, struggle to secure what we want, regardless of others. We who are blind and deaf to the promptings of God's Spirit have built ourselves a world that is unjust, a world of hunger, of malnutrition and despair. . The poverty of the third world, the unemployment and inequalities of the industrialised West, are the grim face of our rejection of God, of our rebellion against the Spirit of God.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia”



Pentecost

Send, O Father, the Holy Spirit of your Son into our lives and communities. May the joy we know in the Spirit help us to be joyful bearers of the Good News to our contemporaries.

Exam Mass

This takes place this **Sunday 31st May at 6.30pm**. Students will be invited write their names on a piece of paper and place it in the identified basket. This basket will be left in front of the Altar for the duration of the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams please feel free to put their name in the basket. Also a special candle will be lit and kept lighting for the duration of the exams

The following is a prayer for parents to help them, as they try to support their child through the stress of these exams.

Dear Lord,

I pray for my child and all students about to sit exams.

Help them to keep calm and clear-minded.

Fill them with your peace so that they may be able to make best use of their abilities, the study they have done and the education they have been blessed with.

Do not let the burden of fear and nervousness prevent them from doing as well as they deserve. However, teach them not to measure their self worth by the mark they receive but rather by the effort they put in.

Guide their footsteps when they walk alone, but help them also to be there for each other, supporting and encouraging in the truest spirit of friendship.

Lord, bless everyone today who has given of themselves to these students on their journey, teachers, family, friends and fellow classmates.

Teach them to be thankful, that despite the stress and worry that exams bring, they have this opportunity that many young people all over the world are deprived of.

May the light of Jesus shine gently on them now and during any difficult times they might face on their journey through life. Amen

A Student's Prayer

The following is a prayer students to help them through the stress of their exams.

Lord, I have knowledge, so will you show me how to use it wisely and find a way to make the world I live in a better place, and make life with its problems a bit easier to face.

May I ever be aware in all that I do, that knowledge comes from learning and wisdom comes from you.

Corpus Christi Procession

This will take place again this year in the grounds of Clonliffe College on **Thursday 4th June at 7.30pm**. I will be heading in and I invite as many of you as possible to join me. The event is very colourful and prayerful with many parishes represented from all over the Diocese. There is ample parking in the grounds of Clonliffe if people would like to 'car share' and of course the 41 and the 33 busses stop outside Clonliffe.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.... Psalm 51:12

Cemetery Mass

This will take place on **Sunday 28th June at 4.00pm**. After feedback and reflection on last year I am reverting back to celebrating Mass for this important occasion, with the participation of the Choir. If you want to 'hear', celebrate the Mass I invite you to come into the Church, or at least gather around the front door. There will be no use of a sound system that will reach the 'four corners' of the cemetery. A request has gone out for Ministers of the Eucharist so we will be able to distribute Holy Communion around the Cemetery. The blessing of the graves will take place immediately after Mass and depending on the number of Priests we will either bless the graves individually or bless different sections of the graveyard.

Golf Classic – Raffle

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 5th June to raise funds for the re-decoration of our Parish Church of St. Colmcille. A raffle is normally held at this event. If you are not participating but would like to help in the fundraising, then you can buy tickets after all Masses next weekend 30th/31st May. Cost €5 per strip or three strips for €10. The first prize is €100 and there are 15 prizes. Committee members will be selling the tickets. Thank you

Ecumenical Bible Week

This event takes place from Sunday 24th 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 at 7.30pm 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:

www.bibleweek.ie

May Procession for Mary Our Mother: will take place on Monday 25th May Starting points at 7.10pm; Entrance to Glasmore park (from Rathbeale Rd), Bottom of steps from Elmwood, Junction Brackenstown Road & St Cronan's Ave. The Rosary will be recited along the way finishing at the Grotto St Cronan's Church and followed by Mass at 7.30pm in St Cronan's Church

Parish Holiday-almost closed

The time for booking is almost over. **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-two people booked at the moment – why not consider it!***