

the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!”

### A father “in the shadows,” centred on Mary and Jesus

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph’s fatherhood of Jesus as “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.” “Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.” Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be “capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.”

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”

True fathers, instead, “refuse to live the lives of their children for them,” and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realises that “he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied.” Being a father, the Pope emphasises, “has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood”: that of the “heavenly Father”. (*Concluded 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 Brian Taylor & dec members of Taylor & McKenna families (An)

Sun 8.30am Gloria O’Brien (An)

Sun 11.15am Mary O’Connor (An)



### Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Special intention

Mon 10.00am Ann & Martin Reilly

Tues 10.00am Jacinta Beavers

Tues 10.00am Tommy O’Keefe

Wed 10.00am Brona Griffin

Wed 10.00am Nancy & Bartle Savage

Thurs 10.00am Barbara Dwyer

Thurs 10.00am Holy Souls

Fri 10.00am Aidan Donnelly

Fri 10.00am Health Intention

Sat 10.00am Special intention

Sat 6.30pm Alice Roe

Sat 8.30am Kay O’Brien

Sat 11.15am Dr Frank McCarthy

Kitty O’Brien (1stAn)

### 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



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. Colmcille'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*



5th Sunday of Lent

Celebrating the Year of St Joseph

*“Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless”*

Newsletter Sunday 21st March 2021



Continuing on from last week’s newsletter about St. Joseph whom Pope Francis in his letter *Patris corde* writes “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

### A creatively courageous father, example of love

*Patris corde* highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor”

### A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work

“A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” This aspect of Joseph’s character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.

Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.” Pope Francis encourages everyone “to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new ‘normal’ from which no one is excluded.” Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic,

## 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)*



### Priest's Income

With the exception of a few weeks our churches have been closed for the best part of a year. This has had a detrimental effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collections. The Priest's income is the 1<sup>st</sup> Collection-Common Fund. During the past year parishioners have been putting offerings into the special 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection envelopes at the back of the church and some have been making their offerings on-line. A sincere **THANK YOU**.

What has prevented a total collapse in the Priest's income has been the 'Dues'. The Christmas dues held up very well throughout the Diocese and in Swords. So I am asking you to please remember your Easter Dues. I am **NOT** asking you to increase your normal contribution, you may unfortunately even have to reduce it but if you at all can, please make an Easter Dues offering.

Thank you so much to all our wonderful parishioners of Swords and Drynam (and a few beyond!) who support the Parish and the Priest's of St. Colmcille's .

### 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.

### 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

### Easter Cards

The Easter card with the Holy Week timetable (**all online**) and the Easter dues envelope are at the back of the Church. Please take one.

### Daffodil Day 2021

Please support the Irish Cancer Society's Daffodil Day in Swords by donating using the following link. The event is mainly online this year.

[www.justgiving.com/daffodil-day-swords](http://www.justgiving.com/daffodil-day-swords)

From Monday 15th March we plan to have cash donation stations operable in the Post Offices in Swords and Boromhe, and in the Pavilions SC. Although Daffodil Day falls on Friday 26th March donations are welcome now. Please also pass on this link to family and friends.

### Holy Week – Begins next week!

#### Palm Sunday

Next Sunday begins Holy Week. In Holy Week we celebrate the Mystery of our Salvation in Jesus Christ. These final days in the earthly life of Christ begin with his triumphal entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem. The liturgy of Palm Sunday too begins with this joyful entry into Jerusalem, the procession of Palm branches. These branches are not simply blessed objects, but signs of joyful participation in this procession and an expression of the faith of the Church in Christ. Later, during the Liturgy of the Word, we listen attentively to the account of the Passion – glory and suffering, the characteristic which is present throughout the entirety of Holy Week. (Source: *Glenstal Sunday Missal*)  
***This Year again it will all be online, but blessed Palm will be available at the back of the Church after Mass***



### Bethany Bereavement Support Group are offering telephone support, please contact

Terri 01 8403243 from Sunday 21st March to Saturday 27th March. 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"*.

### The Priory institute Holy Week online Retreat

The Priory Institute are holding an online free retreat reflecting on the Passion of Christ. To register contact [www.prioryinstitute.com](http://www.prioryinstitute.com), 01 4048124

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Today's first reading speaks of a new covenant. Jeremiah's ministry spanned the period at the end of the Seventh and the beginning of the Sixth Century before Christ. He justifies the notion of a new covenant on the grounds that the earlier covenant made between God and Israel at the time of the exodus from Egypt was broken by the people. He interprets all the mishaps that befell Israel in the meantime as God's attempt to bring them back to their senses and ultimately to him. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*)

### The Annunciation of the Lord (March 25<sup>th</sup>)

It celebrates Mary's 'Yes' to the Angel Gabriel that she be the mother of 'Our Lord'. We are holy because Jesus is holy. We do not earn holiness by doing good deeds, but our good deeds – our care and concern for others - is a concrete expression of our holiness, our relationship with God. We celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in our own lives by our faithful living of the divine Life that was first given us in baptism and continues to grow in us as we, like Mary, say yes to God in all we do.