

Our prayer for each and every person in our school communities is:

When evil darkens our world, give us light. When despair numbs our souls, give us hope. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When doubts assail us, give us faith. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When ideals fade, give us vision. When we lose our way, be our guide! That we may find serenity in your presence, and purpose in doing your will.

John D Raynor

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 Helen Clarke

Sun 8.30am Eddie Buckley

Sun 11.15am Bridget & John McNulty



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Norman Higgins

Mon 10.00am Karen Hodson

Tues 10.00am John Donoghue

Tues 10.00am Gerald, Bernadette, Imelda & Liam Donnelly

Wed 10.00am Bill Clancy

Wed 10.00am In Thanksgiving

Thurs 10.00am Eleanor & Thomas Greany

Thurs 10.00am Mary Kate Harrison & Dec family members

Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

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Sat 10.00am Eileen & John Sheil

Sat 6.30pm Liz & Mr Savage

Sun 8.30am Paddy, Molly & Jacqueline O'Keefe

Sun 11.15am Tony Byrne

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Sunday Mass can be viewed through the Parish webcam during Level 5 restrictions



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Brendan Lawless

North Street

John (Jack) Keogh

Estuary Court



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Hebrew Scriptures, a prophet is not primarily a person who predicts the future. Rather the heart of his role is that he or she speaks the word of God for today. Many of the great prophets took on their role with great reluctance. What drove them on was the power of the word of the LORD which they had been urged to proclaim. In many cases also it meant adopting an unpopular stance, particularly at a time when things were going well. In times of crisis, however, it frequently involved giving the people a word of consolation. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Faith and Resilience

“Save us, O Lord our God!”

Newsletter Sunday 31st January 2021



It is the end of January, that time of Year when as a Church in Ireland we celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). This year is needless to say very different as the Schools are closed due to the pandemic and the excellent resources provided for the schools, both Primary and Secondary by the CSW Committee will not therefore be used. The theme for this year is 'Communities of Faith and Resilience'. The introduction to this year's resources is very appropriate to these times of the Covid19 pandemic.

As we live through an unprecedented time of challenge and uncertainty, our faith and our resilience can be tested. We can ask questions like 'Will things ever be the same again?', 'When can we get back to normality?' 'Where is God in all of this?' In response to this, we reflect upon how Catholic schools are communities of faith and resilience. In Catholic schools, we are called to support each other and to have faith in the promise of the Good News. Catholic schools are inspired by the belief that God has created each one of us with a capacity to give love and receive love. This love is bound in faith and is more resilient than any virus.

While each Catholic school is such a community, every Catholic school fosters the holistic development of its students, promotes their wellbeing and offers them cultivation of a deeper, loving relationship with God. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in following Jesus' teaching. This year we celebrate how we are called to be communities of faith and resilience, through our thoughts, words and actions. In doing so, we live out the meaning of the beautiful hymn *Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.

No one could have foreseen during Catholic Schools Week 2020 how different life would be just twelve months later. Life for all of us has changed so much that it is not recognisable, comfortable or easy. Our focus on faith and resilience is to remind us of the powerful role our Catholic schools have in the lives of so many young people. It is a source of comfort, care, belonging and strength. It was so important for our students to return to school, not simply to get back into the academic life, but, more importantly, to reconnect with their friends and teachers – to experience community. We have focused the week around the three theological virtues – faith, hope and love – while acknowledging the challenges that we are all facing at this present time and the need to feel a sense of belonging in our community again.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us **Pope Francis**



2021 Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

For the next 5 weeks during this Level 5 lockdown 2021 the Parish will host a special liturgy every **Tuesday** and **Thursday Evening at 7.00pm** beginning Tuesday 5th January. The format will be:

A decade of the Rosary followed by Prayers

In this challenging time; For those who care for the sick; Our Lady of Good Health

- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “In a Landscape Redrawn”, by Bishop Donal Murray written in 2017
- 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

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

Fr. Flor McCarthy

Last week Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB – Salesian Priest, died last week and he was buried in Kilgarvin, Co. Kerry. As readers of the newsletter will know, I have used Fr. Flor's material a lot and will continue to do so. He wrote excellent books on the Readings for the Sunday Masses and also on the Liturgical Seasons especially Lent and Advent. May he rest in peace after his good deeds have gone with him.

World day for Consecrated Life

In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. ***This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd.*** Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day – We thank and pray especially for Srs. Margaret and Mary and Winnie. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them BUT bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with

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 from Sunday 24th to Saturday 30th - 8403243 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>

1st and 2nd Collections

The Church is closed for public Mass but is opened for private prayer. At the door of the Church there are pre-printed envelopes marked 1st and 2nd Collection. You are invited to put your offering in the envelopes and then place in the wall safes or under the Sacristy door.

Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

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 fellow, reflection on Scripture and prayer together. It provides an opportunity to connect in with other young adults in a community of faith. For more information please email: kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie

Saints in the Church's calendar

St. Brigid, Abbess, Secondary Patron of Ireland–

Monday 1st February. Known as ‘the Mary of the Gael’, St Brigid is renowned for her hospitality, almsgiving and care of the sick. She was born c. 454.

When she was young her father wished to make a very suitable marriage for her but she insisted in consecrating her virginity to God. She received the veil and spiritual formation probably from St. Mel and stayed for a period under his direction in Ardagh. Others followed her example and this led her to found a double monastery in Kildare with the assistance of Bishop Conleth. She died in 524 and her cult is widespread not only throughout Ireland but in several European lands. The St. Brigid's Cross, in legend used by Brigid to explain the Christian faith, remains a popular sign of God's protection **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord– Monday 2nd February,** This feast is a remembrance of the Lord and Mary, his Mother. With candles in their hands, the people go out to meet the Lord and to acclaim him with Simeon, who recognised Christ as ‘a light to reveal God to the nations’

