

The offer of love and the promise of the Kingdom was not just for better-class Jews. It was for everyone.

There was one other way on which Jesus showed that the Kingdom of God was close at hand. This was by the word which he performed, mostly works of healing, which St. John's Gospel calls "signs" and which we nowadays call "miracles". These were indeed signs of God's power in Jesus, showing his mastery over the world of nature and especially over human sickness and infirmity. They were also signs of God's love for those in need, shown in the person of this man Jesus.

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 Jacqueline Monaghan

Sun 8.30am Kathleen O'Connor

Sun 11.15am Noel McDonald

Fay Hardy (MM)



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Peter O'Brien

Mon 10.00am Tony Walsh

Tues 10.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am Imelda Mercer

Wed 10.00am Daniel Burke

Thurs 10.00am Patrick Hickey

Thurs 10.00am Special Intention

Fri 10.00am Celestino Bingil

Fri 10.00am Thomas, Annie & James
McKenna

Sat 10.00am Mary Connolly

Brendan Lawless (MM)

Sat 6.30pm Kevin Wynne

Sun 8.30am Lindsay Kelly

Sun 11.15am Seamus Dolan

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:

Teresa Beades

Cloghran



St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for February will take place next weekend, Sunday 21st February. Envelopes will be left on the tables at the back of the church. All monies raised is kept in Swords

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 you

Bethany Bereavement Support Group: The parish website has details of support available from the Bethany Support Group

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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The life of a wandering preacher -

Jesus showed that the Kingdom of God was close at hand.

"Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me"

Newsletter Sunday 14th February 2021



Last week's newsletter finished with the 'two aspects of the Kingdom that must be examined in detail': firstly, the Kingdom as the loving gift of God; secondly, the response that man/woman is to make to the gift offered him.

The Offer of the Kingdom

The love of God for man and woman is at the heart of the message of Jesus. This can be seen even in the way Jesus spoke of God. He called him by the Aramaic title *Abba*, which was the affectionate word used in speaking to one's father. This was surprising to the Jews. They sometimes compared God to a father because of his loving care for his people, but they preferred to speak to him as their Lord and King. They never addressed him directly as "Father" and would have thought it disrespectful to do so.

Jesus used the word "Father" no less than a hundred and seventy times in the gospels when speaking to God or about God. He told his followers to use it also when they prayed:

"Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy.... (Mt 6:9-10)

There was no disrespect here: God was the king of heaven, whose name was to be kept holy, whose will was to be done. But first of all, he was our Father.

Therefore our attitude to God should not be one of fear, but out of love and trust. He gives food to the birds in the sky and he clothes the grass with flowers; how much more will he look after our needs (Mt 6:25-34). Not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without his knowing it. "So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows" (Mt 10:31)

One of the most beautiful descriptions of God as a father comes in the parable of the prodigal son. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved to pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly" (Lk 15:20). God is not a stern father who sits at home and has to be won round by humble apologies. He is a loving father who watches the road every day, so that he can be the first to see the prodigal and run to meet him.

In this way Jesus taught the people to look on themselves as God's children. No-one was excluded from God's love. Everyone was invited. Jesus made a point of reaching out to all those who were down on by the Jews. He healed the sick and fed the hungry, he ate with tax-collectors and sinners, he talked with foreigners and unbelievers, he made a Samaritan the hero of one of the parables.

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

This special Liturgy continues for the month of February 2021 every **Tuesday** and **Thursday Evening at 7.00pm**

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**

Accord

Their annual collection takes place this weekend replacing share – see note below: From Sunday February 14th to Saturday 20th, the collection envelope at the back of the Church marked “2nd Collection-Share” will be diverted to Accord (as it replaces the Share Collection).

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

Ash Wednesday – 17th February

The Season of lent will be very different this year. For starters people will not be able to come to Mass to receive Ashes, which is still a popular tradition here in Ireland.

What can we do?

Sachets of blessed ashes will be left on a table at the back of the Church for you to take away with you. *Please only one sachet per person/family*

How do you put on the ashes?

Do not trace the sign of the cross on your forehead or the forehead of a family member. Rather sprinkle the ash on the top of your head and whilst doing so say the following prayer:

‘Repent and believe the Gospel *or*

‘Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return’

If you want to read the Gospel for the day then its Matthew chapter 6 verses 1 to 6 and 16 to 18 (Mt.6:1-6,16-18).

Mass will be celebrated on this day via the webcam at 10.00am and 7.00pm



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!!!

ACCORD

The ANNUAL COLLECTION of ACCORD Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, **takes place this weekend**

With counselling agencies of all sorts anticipating a “tsunami of demand” and Garda sources reporting a large increase in domestic violence (“violence has gone home”), it is clear that there a great need for Accord’s services in our communities.

We need your help to encourage

- those who need our services to contact us,, those who support us to continue to do so, new donors to enable the work to continue.

Counselling continues by phone, and contact can be made via our centres or on our helpline at 01 9059555. Marriage preparation courses have continued, with smaller courses via zoom, and can be booked on our website.

To enable our services to continue to meet the demand, we need your support.

You can if you wish donate in the following ways:

- Online at www.accorddublin.ie where you will find a DONATE button.
- By post to Accord Dublin, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3.
- By bank transfer to ACCORD Dublin Catholic Marriage Care Service CLG, Bank of Ireland, 88 Lower Camden Street, Dublin 2. IBAN: IE27 BOFI 9001 1357 0742 03; BIC:BOFIE2D.

Knife Crime

Speaking at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ballymun last week end, The Archbishop had the following to say on knife crime. “I want to say a word about knife violence. Carrying a knife does not ensure your security. You do not leave your home carrying a knife with you for the sole purpose of peeling an apple. Rather, when you carry a knife you are travelling down a dangerous road full of risks. Sooner or later, it will be used in a malicious way which puts yourself and others in the way of serious injury or death. This is not the way to construct a world that is safe—safe for ourselves, safe for each other, safe for our children, and safe for the vulnerable—be they old or young, friend or stranger. Violence is the not the way of the strong; in the end, violence is the way of those who see no other way. Regaining hope is the way we must work together to build a culture of non-violence in our city.

Where do we begin? First, human life is sacred, and we need to address the threat to life posed by knife violence with the full strength of our Catholic faith. Knife crime and violence, which is self-destructive, must always be condemned. Let us not forget that our Lord knew first-hand what violence could do—and never succumbed to it himself. Secondly, we have become desensitised to knife violence and the resulting tragic deaths.

People of peace remain shocked by all manifestations of violence. Violence—on the street or in the home—is never “the way things are.” While laws and regulations may help, we need a different way of thinking which turns such a dominant and destructive culture on its head. We need to come to the realisation that in wielding a knife, everything can be lost, and nothing gained. Thirdly, there is a spiritual issue in that there is a loss of empathy towards other human beings. The truth of *who* we are—and of *what* we are—is at stake. Genuine empathy is the entry point into the commandment to love your neighbour and to live in peace. If the problem of violence in our country is to be overcome, we need a spiritual and moral conversion. We need to recover how we truly are—what it means to be a neighbour, what it means to be a sister or a brother, friend and neighbour. (Archbishop Dermot Farrell – 7th Feb 2021)