

She was praying with elevated hands and eyes looking up. St. Joseph stood on Mary's right hand side, wore white and stood with head bowed. St. John was on the left, turned slightly away, with right hand and index finger raised as though teaching, holding a book in his left hand and wearing on his head a short bishop's mitre. Mary Byrne later said that the entire vision was 'made of light' but that the brightest light came from the lamb.

The two women summoned their friends and neighbours, and soon fifteen people assembled at the church. They all saw the vision exactly the same way. The spectators ranged in age from five to seventy-five, and included men and women. The little group remained for two hours, reciting the Rosary, until the vision vanished. On the centenary of the apparition, 1979, St. John Paul II made a papal visit to Ireland, came on a personal pilgrimage to Knock, which he described as 'the goal of my journey to Ireland', and raised the status of the new church to that of basilica. (Source: Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults)

Fr. Michael Carey

**St. Colmcille's Annual Pilgrimage to Knock
Saturday 8th August**

Depart from the Star Pub at 8am.

*Stopping off for light breakfast on outward bound journey and on the return journey Carvery Dinner. Both at the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. The cost of the coach is 15euro. For further details contact **Mary @ 087-2711376, or Ita @ 01-8402268***

Mass Intentions for this coming week St Colmcille's

Mon 10.00am Cliare McCormack

Mon 10.00am Brian Nulty

Tues 8.00am Pat Coughlan

Sat 6.30pm Gerry Loughran

Tues 10.00 Brendan O'Keefe

Wed 8.00am Patrick Hanratty

Sun 8.30am Patricia Hennelly

Wed 10.00am Elizabeth Fields

Thurs 8.00 John Farrell

Sun 11.00am Lorna & Denis O'Sullivan

Thurs 10.00am Seamus Sweeney

Fri 8.00am Joan McGovern

Sun 6.30pm

Fri 10.00am Margaret O'Brien

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

We are planning a Visitation Evening on Tuesday 7th July to reach out to one area herein Drynam. We request parishioners who would like to participate to join us for about 2 hours on the evening. We will first have a short prayer service and then we'll call to houses in pairs. We'll let people know that our church is here and provide them with information on the services we provide. If interested please give your name to Fr. Peter or one of the Pastoral Team.



Faith tested

My faith is tested many times every day, and more times than I'd like to confess. I'm unable to keep the banner of faith aloft. If a promise is not kept, or if a secret is betrayed, or if I experience long-lasting pain, I begin to doubt God and God's love.

I fall into the chasm of disbelief and I cry out in despair. But then the Spirit lifts me up again, and once more I am secured in faith. I don't know how that happens, save when I cry out earnestly I am answered immediately and am returned to faithfulness.

I am once again filled with Spirit and firmly planted on solid ground. (Source: Flor McCarthy SDB)

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



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady Appears at Knock

"Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever."



Newsletter Sunday 21st June 2015



When the BVM appeared at Knock in 1879, some features distinguished this apparition from others. First of all, Mary did not say anything. This is quite unusual. Our Lady gave no verbal message, and made no formal request. Indeed, the Knock apparition came to be referred to as 'Our Lady of Silence'.

Second, she appeared with other figures. The visionaries recognised Mary, St. Joseph and St. John, along with an altar with a lamb and a cross on it. Third, the apparition was seen outside the small church building, against the gable end, and not inside the chapel as in other instances, nor in the open countryside as with others. Last, the apparition occurred once only, for a number of hours, to a group of fifteen people.

The most enigmatic and striking figure in the apparition is that of the lamb standing beneath the Cross. This is the symbol of the sacrificial lamb of the Old Testament and of the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross in the Gospels, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The lamb is a powerful sign, especially to those who are oppressed, and it speaks with particular power to a rural pastoral people.

A number of Marian apparitions had taken place in Europe in the previous decades so knowledge of the Virgin Mary and her possible apparitions was very familiar to the people of Ireland in the nineteenth century, and it is no surprise that the parish priest, Archdeacon Bartholomew Cavanagh, and the people of the area were devoted to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. As a result, Fr. Cavanagh, a holy and zealous man, decided to celebrate a series of one hundred Masses for the poor souls in Purgatory whom the BVM would wish released from punishment.

The hundredth day of the series – 21st August 1879-was raining and misty. That evening, the priest's housekeeper, Mary McLoughlin, went by foot to visit a friend, Mary Byrne, who lived some distance away. On the way, she passed the church, a small structure which could hold only about thirty people.

Outside, against the back wall, she spotted a number of white figures, which she took to be some new statues that the priest had acquired, and was going to move into the church after. Without investigation further, she continued on to visit her friend.

After an hour or so, she returned home, accompanied on the way by Mary Byrne. She had not told her companion about the new statues, but as they drew near, Mary Byrne saw the same shapes. The women then ascertained that they were not statues, but white gleaming apparitions, who seemed to them to be Our Lady and St. Joseph, and a third form whom Mary Byrne identified as St. John the Evangelist. The three figures were standing apparently above the grass, surrounded by a golden light, as if they were praying or worshipping. Six angels gently hovered around them. An altar, a lamb and a cross were behind them. The figures in the vision did not move. Our Lady wore a full white cloak and a gold crown with sparkling points.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the souse of the Lord all the days of my life.”



Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 28th June at 4pm

As we prepare for Cemetery Sunday we need your help. At the moment Paddy Gerrard, Domnic Temple and Noel Markey are doing all the grass and hedge cutting. It is a huge task and becoming too much for them. Can you help? It is an ideal Corporal Work of Mercy. Please consider and if you can assist you can ring Paddy at 01-8401466.

Summer Schedule

This effects only the **Saturday 10.00am Morning Mass**. The last one will be on Saturday 28th June and it will resume on Saturday 12th September. All other Masses will remain as scheduled.

Also the Parish Choir and the Parish Folk Group will sing their last Mass before the summer holidays on Sat/Sun 27th/28th June and will return on Sat/Sun 5th/6th September. They both deserve a well earned break.

Confession Box

Over the summer months I hope to change the use of the confession box inside the main door. It is not used at all and I intend on removing the doors and inside seats, leaving the outer frame. The created space on the inside will be used to situate the ‘historic’ baptism font that stands in the porch. That porch space can be used to store the VdP boxes that are currently stored in the confession box. That space can be made secure by putting up doors similar to the space at the other main door of the front of the church

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE :As one candle is lit from the flame of another, so is faith kindled by faith.. Romano Guardini, Priest (1885-1968)

A Father's Day Prayer

Lord, please take care of our dads.
Though they are brave and protective,
they must also be frightened sometimes.
When money runs low and when we need things,
Lord, when their hearts break because they can't do it all;
Please help us to let them know how much we love them.
And how much You love them.
Amen!



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Mary McGrath

Formerly of North Street



Cemetery Mass

This will take place in St. Colmcille's on **Sunday 28th June at 4.00pm.**

Blessing of Graves for nearby Cemeteries are as follows: **Fingal** – Sun 21st June at 12 noon. **Glasnevin** – Sun 28th June at 3pm; **Balgriffin** – Sun 5th July at 12 noon **Malahide** - Sun 28th June at 3pm , **St Margarets** -Sat 4th July at 8pm , Balgriffin - Sun 5th July at 12 noon, **Dardistown** – Sun 5th July at 3pm, **Rolestown**- Sun 12th July at 3.30pm & **Donabate**-Sun19th July at 3.30pm

St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Clothing Appeal

The Appeal is for clean good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be distributed this weekend **20th/21st June** in the porches of both our churches. They will be collected the following weekend 27th/28th June. There will be no Sunday evening collection.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gist of today's Gospel is found in the last sentence of the parable, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.' Mark answers this question in his Gospel by gradually revealing the "messianic secret." Mark is telling us that Jesus as the Messiah of suffering and death will not take away the pain, the struggle, the hardship, the suffering – all the storms of life. This sentiment is echoed by St Paul in the Second Reading: that we do not look upon Jesus as a wonderworker, but rather as the crucified one who offered himself in love; this great love of Jesus is what impels us to live by his values. For Paul, as for Mark, our salvation is not a glorious salvation but one that is fully human, carried out amidst the storms of life.

Feasts this Week

St. Thomas Moore – **Monday 22nd June**, 1478-1535, the first commoner to be Lord Chancellor of England, also suffered martyrdom under Henry VIII. Patron of Lawyers and those in public life. St. John Paul II declared him patron of politicians in 2000

Nativity of John the Baptist – **Wednesday 24th June** we rejoice at the coming of St. John the Baptist, a man of self-denial, integrity of life and purpose, and an uncompromising prophetic voice. John means 'The Lord has shown favour.' This feast relates to the summer solstice, when the days begin to grow shorter, recalling John's words, 'He must increase, but I must decrease'. He was the last and the greatest of the prophets and he prepared for the coming of Christ.

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor of the church – **Saturday 27th June** 370-444, patriarch of Alexandria, fought against Nestorianism at the Council of Ephesus, 431, which proclaimed Mary the Mother of God