

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.

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – Friday 28th June understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term 'Sacred Heart of Jesus' denotes the entire mystery of Christ: Son of God, uncreated wisdom; infinite charity, principle of the salvation and sanctification of mankind.

Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles – Monday 29th June, On the day traditionally considered by pagan Rome to be its foundation day by Romulus, we celebrate the twin founders of the Church in Rome. St. Peter died by crucifixion and St. Paul by beheading between 64-67.

The Church is like the human person: we are both body and spirit at the one time. The body of Christ – which is what we are – has both a bodily reality (membership, structure and sacraments) and a spiritual reality (the life of faith and prayer, the indwelling Spirit). The institutional and the prophetic dimensions of Church are sometimes in tension and that is really normal. To be part of the living body of Christ is to hear again Jesus' question, who do you say I am? As St Paul reminds us, no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3). Christ, Son of the living God, you call us to confess your name and to acknowledge you as Lord. Help us to live our faith and find new words for what we believe so that we may proclaim your Gospel to our contemporaries in words they can understand.

Fr Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am John Frazer	
Mon 10.00am Mary Maples	Sat 6.30pm Nuala, Jane, John & Cait Ryan
Tues 8.00am Eileen Danaher	
Tues 10.00am Lynn Browne	
Wed 8.00am Oonagh O'Flaherty	Sun 8.30am Special Intention
Wed 10.00am Patrick & Kathleen Deegan	Michael McCabe Snr
Thurs 8.00am Michael, Bridie & Francis Leyden	
Thurs 10.00am Sr Margaret Walsh Golden Jubilee	
Fri 8.00am Jim Phelan	Sun 11.15am Christine & Francis Loughran
Fri 10.00am Patricia Hennelly	Jane Kenny

At our Masses next weekend we also remember: Gerry Loughran

Church of the Visitation Drynam – The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

This week's (23rd June) 11.00am Irish language Sunday mass is the last before the Summer break. The mass will resume again in September (date to be confirmed).

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Ann Foran Bealinstown, Swords



St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Clothing Appeal

The Appeal is for clean good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be distributed next weekend **29th/30th June** in the porches of both our churches. They will be collected the following weekend **6th/7th July**. There will be no Sunday evening collection.

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: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
A reflection on Corpus Christi
“He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock”
Newsletter Sunday 23rd June 2019



In many Catholic countries on Corpus Christi, processions of the Blessed Sacrament wind through the streets of the towns and villages, as the people sing and pray. What we celebrate is the triumph of Christ the King who comes to take possession of the kingdom he has won through his defeat of all earthly powers. Our procession mirrors the great triumphs of Roman generals who paraded through Rome with their victorious army after a successful campaign. The *Te Deum*, the hymn we sing on Sundays and solemn feast days, gives an image of such a procession. It lists the ranks of apostles, prophets and the white robed army of martyrs. In a Roman triumph the soldiers marched unarmed and in their white togas through the city; the martyrs are their spiritual counterparts. In the ordered ranks of the magistrates, the army, and the representative bodies of the city, the people of Rome saw themselves reflected. In the Eucharist we look on that which sacramentally we are: The Body of Christ living with his life.

St. Thomas Aquinas speaks of the bread of angels sent for pilgrims in their banishment. The Eucharist is food for our journey. In the readings today a direct connection is made with the original miraculous bread showered on the people of Israel during their pilgrimage of redemption from slavery in Egypt. The manna that rained down from heaven was quite specific in where it fell. It was not scattered indiscriminately over the desert, but was gathered from around the tents and in the confines of the camp. The manna separated the people from what surrounded them. It marked them out as having a special identity and the privilege of a special mission. It made them into one people. It forged them into one body to be an instrument of God's glory.

The Eucharist is at the heart of the Church. It is the beating heart of the Church. The cardiac cycle is composed of systole and diastole, contraction or concentration and expansion. The Eucharist is dynamic. It draws us together but in order to send us out. The manna ceased to fall when the people crossed the Jordan. It was an anticipation of that life they would enjoy with God in the land. It was food for the journey. The Eucharist is food for our pilgrim journey, which is a procession to the kingdom. *(Source: Fr. Allan White OP, former Prior Provincial of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.)*

Feast Days this coming Week

There are a number of significant Feast Days this coming week.

Nativity of John the Baptist – Monday 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

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words...
Please. Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



Morning Prayer – Last Saturday of the month

Next Saturday-29th June, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 1. Why not come along – it lasts about 20 minutes and you will be praying with the Parish Community. If and when a priest is absent it does not mean that the parish community cannot give prayer and worship to God and the Church has other forms of worship apart from the Mass especially its Divine Office – Morning (Lauds) and Evening (Vespers) Prayer.

Golf Classic-2019

This year was the 9th annual Golf Classic. It was a tremendous success and all participants enjoyed it – twenty teams took part this year.

On behalf of the Parish I want to sincerely thank and commend the organising committee who did such a marvellous job and gave an enormous amount of their time and talents:

John and Bernie Campbell; Betty McDonald; Jack and Maura Moore and Pat Lynch. I thank Colette for all the office work involved. I also thank the people who entered teams; the people who sponsored holes and the people who contributed prizes for the raffle. Many tickets were sold for the raffle. Two weekends were set aside for the sale of tickets at the weekend Masses and then in the lead up to the classic and well as on the day itself. Thank you to the 'Mass' ticket sellers.

I also thank Peter O'Brien, past Captain and President of Forrest Little golf club who tied up all the loose ends and was an invaluable help with the Golf Club and also Tim Ralph who spent the day taking photographs. Finally, Forrest Little Golf Club has a great golf course and facilities that are second to none. I wish to thank them for the use of their facilities and for their great hospitality. Many thanks also to the catering staff who provided us with a beautiful meal which was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all who won prizes and supported the raffle.

Swords Parish Camino

It was a lovely afternoon. We completed the walk in 2 hours and stopped at all the churches where we had our passports stamped. About 60 people joined in the walk and we finished with refreshments in Brackenstown Parish. This event at the weekend of the Feast day of St. Colmcille is now well established in our combined Parishes calendar.

Do This in Memory – Corpus Christi

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass for the finale of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses. It was a wonderful year and gone by so fast. I hope the boys and girls enjoy the short Eucharistic procession and the light refreshments after the Mass. Thanks to the Liturgy Team and the Parish Pastoral Council for organising the refreshments and for the many ways that they were involved in the programme during the past year

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine will take place on Saturday 10th August. Details are on the notice board at the back of the Church

CEMETERY SUNDAY

Mass

This Mass (with the participation of the Choir) will take place in St. Colmcille's Church. Before the final blessing, I will pray a prayer of blessing for all buried in the Cemetery. This is always a significant event in our parish Calendar and is an important annual occasion, therefore as you would expect a lot of work goes into this Mass by the Liturgy Team. 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.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be distributed in the Church and immediately outside the front door. Ministers will not be stationed in the cemetery as the demand is not there.

Individual Graves

The Mass itself, is offered for all buried in our cemetery and the prayer of blessing refers to all buried 'in this cemetery. To that end **there is no need** for all graves to be individually sprinkled. What I will do after the Mass is 'sprinkle' the different sections of the graveyard. **Why not?** Bring a small bottle of holy water and sprinkle your family grave during the Mass.

Cemetery Sunday – Collection

As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

Cemetery Sunday – Ministers of the Eucharist

Could Ministers of the Eucharist who are free and available to distribute Holy Communion on Cemetery Sunday please let Mary McCarthy know. Thank You

Peter's Pence Collection

Next Weekend Saturday/Sunday 29th/30th June, is the Sunday nearest the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. To that end the 2nd Collection (Share) is replaced by the 'Peter's Pence' collection this collection is for the Pope and Pontifical Charities.

Swords Senior Citizens Centre - We are open through the Summer

Sunday Boules 2.00pm - 4.00pm, **Monday** Indoor Boules 2.00pm - 4.00pm, **Wednesday** Bingo 2.00pm - 4.00pm, **Friday** Darts 2.00pm - 4.00pm

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)

Since the Fourteenth Century the Church of the West has celebrated this feast in every place where she is established. It commemorates the institution of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Eucharist and so it is closely linked with Holy Thursday. It was felt that other elements of the celebration of the Easter Triduum tended to obscure the aspect of the Eucharist. Therefore, it was considered that a special day outside the Easter season in which the focus would be on this aspect would be useful. And so today's feast.

(Source: St. Paul's Missal)