

So the sentiments expressed in the First Letter of Peter are addressed to us: "You did not see him, yet you loved him". The fact that we are gathered here today is a sign of our belief and a declaration of our love. Future generations depend on us to hand on what we have received so that they too can have life through the name of Jesus. If we all do that, there will never be an end to the story of Jesus.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Thomas Nulty

Mon 10.00am Muriel Harford

Tues 8.00am Peggy Ferris

Tues 10.00am Tom Keane & Alice, Vera & Vinny Pepper

Wed 8.00am Millie McEvoy

Wed 10.00 Christopher Morgan

Thurs 8.00am Special intention

Thurs 10.00am Mary Daly

Fri 8.00am Marian Nulty

Fri 10.00am Bernadette McGonagle

Sat 10.00am Mary Stafford

Sat 6.30am Matthew Caul

Sun 8.30am Walter Higgins

Sun 11.00 am Cora Mullarkey
Cathal Kelly (MM)

Sun 6.30pm Barney O'Rourke

Church of the Visitation Drynam *The Visitation of the BVM*

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon Mon & Tues 9.20am

A Fundraising Concert in aid of the Church Building Fund will take place on Friday 19th May 8PM in the RIASC Centre. Our Lady of Victories Gospel Choir, Ballymun, and supporting acts will perform. Tickets €10. Please let Fr Peter or a committee member know if you would like to help in selling a ticket or 2.



Second Sunday of Easter - (Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Mercy and merciful are words which speak to heart and rightly so because we all need from time to time the experience of mercy and compassion, not only from our neighbour, but from God himself. We see something of that mercy in today's Gospel: Thomas is unable to come to faith and Jesus reaches out to him, inviting him to touch him. The climax of the story is the "beatitude" which closes it: Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe!

Prayer - Risen Jesus, draw us into the circle of your divine life, that although not seen we may believe and by believing we may have life in your name. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*)

He Has Spoken Through the Prophets...

Viatores Christi would like to remind you about our second talk in the series on renewal and the future of the Church. This will feature Fr Mark Patrick Hederman on May 3rd 2017 at 7.00pm to 9.30pm in the Lecture Hall, Belvedere College Dublin 1 Suggested donation €10. To book your place call 01-8689986 or email shane@viatoreschristi.com

R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Congratulations to Raven Amuia and Lucas Abidoye who were Baptised at the Easter Vigil, and to Lucas Abidoye, Iutina Amuia and Emmanuel Kachidza-Mpundu who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. We welcome them into our Parish Community

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)

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon -Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

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



2nd Sunday of Easter

Not seeing, yet Believing

*"Receive the joy of your glory,
giving thanks to God"*

Newsletter, Sunday 23rd April 2017



The following is an extract from an Easter homily given by Fr. Denis McBride C.S.S.R. In it he quotes from a poem by Robert Browning called 'A Death in the Desert', which is about the last of the apostles, John, who is dying. He looks over his life and wonders what will happen after the death of the last person to know Jesus personally. What will happen when

There is left on earth

No one alive who knew (consider this!)

-Saw with his eyes and handled with his hands

That which was from the first, the Word of Life.

How will it be when none more says "I saw"?

How can the Church speak about Jesus in a compelling way when no one can see him? This is precisely the problem that the evangelist John faces in today's Gospel. The apostle Thomas is absent when Jesus appears to the others, and he cannot believe that Jesus is risen because he cannot see him. This is a story for everyone who was not present with the disciples on Easter evening – and that obviously includes ourselves. Today's Gospel builds a bridge between those who saw Jesus and those who do not: "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe". That is a blessing directed at us: we who believe in Jesus without seeing him.

We know from experience that it isn't easy to believe in someone we cannot see for ourselves. But we also know that many people who did see Jesus did not believe in him. Seeing does not necessarily lead to believing. The apostles have a unique place in the Church because they saw Jesus and believed in him, and they were commissioned to share their faith with others. Without the apostles' seeing and believing there would be no Christian faith. That is why, as we pray in the creed, one of the marks of the Church is that it is 'apostolic'.

We have no experience of the physical presence of Jesus, but our understanding of him is linked through time – through all the previous generations of Christians – back to the apostles themselves. It is a great chain of faith which is linked to the person of Jesus himself.

You may think that the chain gets weaker the more it is distanced from the time of Jesus, but the Spirit which Jesus gives is a *present reality* in the Church. The Spirit is the life of the Church, the power which keeps the memory of Jesus alive, and which enables each of us to have a living relationship with God.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – The Lord is truly risen, alleluia



Thank You

As I look back over Holy Week and more especially the Easter Triduum or the Easter ceremonies, I must say that I have been deeply moved. There was a wonderful participation, which is always very heartening for the priest, but it is encouraging for all of us.

From where I stand at the Presider's chair and look down it was wonderful to see so many faces. The faces I've come to recognise in my time here, the faces that I didn't recognise!! Of course it's not a numbers game, but we are a large parish and so a certain number, without quantifying, is expected. Well the attendance/participation was excellent, and is a source of hope for all of us.

All the ceremonies went off very well and that was due in no small part to the Parish Sisters; Liturgy Team, Sacristans, Parish Secretary, Choir, Folk Group, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar servers, and the Volunteers. But important and necessary as all preparation and teams are, there was/is something else - the participation of the congregation during a liturgy, i.e. your participation.

It was prayerful, reverential, and enthusiastic. We all felt that in some way during each liturgy and it 'lifted us' up. Not only that, but it was a source of encouragement for each other, a wellspring of hope. It reaffirmed our sense of parish, our sense of community. One other observation, and without being overly charismatic, the Holy spirit was present, strengthening and renewing us with His gifts (*which we received at confirmation*), especially I believe the gift of 'wonder and awe in God's presence'. This is the gift which enables us to see God's presence in ourselves, in each other and every person and God's presence in nature and the world.

We are now in the fifty days of Easter, so why not reflect back on those 3 days (The Easter Triduum- Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday), giving thanks for the Holy Spirit at work in our parish of St. Colmcille's and Our Lady of the Visitation and perhaps more challenging, discerning what the Holy Spirit was saying and asking of each one of us.

Easter Dues

If you did not receive an Easter Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church. If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in Sacristy or Parish Office.

Divine Mercy Sunday – Today

The liturgy today invites us to see in Divine Mercy the source of that authentic peace that the risen Christ offers us. The wounds of the risen and glorious Lord are the permanent sign of God's merciful love for humanity. From them flows a spiritual light that enlightens consciences and pours into hearts comfort and hope. (*Saint Pope John Paul II*)

Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them. Note both schools will be at the Saturday Vigil only this time around.

Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd October

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is subject to availability.

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.* Entrance fees where applicable.

This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111** MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Divine Mercy devotions will take place in St. Cronan's Church, Brackenstown this Sunday -23rd April commencing 2:45pm consisting of chaplet of Divine Mercy, confessions, readings from St. Faustina's Diary, Adoration, Benediction, concluding with the usual 5:30pm evening Mass.

Age Action Computer Classes

Age Action is running 1-1 computer classes for complete beginners over 55 years for 4 weeks only from 28th April in Fingal Community College in partnership with the transition year programme. This is an excellent way for people who are fearful of technology to learn how to use email and how to access the internet for information, learn how to book tickets, holidays, do online banking etc. For more information and to book your place call Age Action on 01 4756989

Cycle against Suicide

Saturday 22nd April - Mental Health & Wellbeing Fare in Fingal County Council from 2pm, Free to attend, Samaritans, SeeChange, Chidline, Emmaus Centre, Teenline Ireland are just some of the organisations there to offer help and information.

Sunday 23rd April - Cycle Against Suicide annual 14 day cycle around Ireland starting from Swords Castle/North street at 10.30am. Please come out and support the 500+ cyclists on their journey, The High Hope choir, Kayleigh & 98FM will be in the Castle before the start.

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group will meet on Monday 24th April at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road. All Fingal residents are welcome.