

A mosaic plaque marks the spot where on 11th February 1858 Bernadette, knelt during the first apparition. At the time of Bernadette, the Grotto was a dirty, hidden, damp and cold place. The Grotto was called the "pigs' shelter" because that was where the pigs feeding in the area usually took shelter. It was there that the Virgin Mary, dressed in white, a sign of total purity, the sign of the love of God, in other words the sign of what God wishes to accomplish in each of us, deigned to appear. There is a contrast between this damp and obscure Grotto and the presence of the Virgin Mary, "the Immaculate Conception". It reminds us of the Gospel: the meeting of the wealth of the goodness of God and the poverty of the human person. At Lourdes, the fact that Mary had appeared in a dirty and obscure Grotto, in the place called Massabielle, the Old Rock, tells us that God comes to join us where we are, in the midst of our poverty and failures.

The Grotto is not only a place where something happened - a geographical place - it is also a place where God gives us a sign by revealing his heart and our heart. It is a place where God leaves us a message, a message that is nothing other than that of the Gospel. God comes to tell us that he loves us, - this is the heart of the Message of Lourdes, and he loves us as we are with all our successes but also with all our wounds, our weaknesses and our limitations.

Fr. Michael Carey Adm.

Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

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| Mon 8.00 am People of the Parish | Sat 6.3pm James & Christina Byrne |
| Mon 10.00am Dec members of the Nugent Family | Sun 8.30am Servant of God, Frank Duff |
| Tues 8.00 Leo Callis | Sun 10.00am Tommy McKitterick |
| Tues 10.00am Irene Green | Sun 11.30am Dec members of Moroney & Bateman Families |
| Wed 8.00am Ann & Joseph Walsh | Sun 7.30pm Muriel Harford (MM) |
| Wed 10.00am Christopher Barker | |
| Thurs 8.00 am Jim Morton | |
| Thurs 10.00am No Mass | |
| Fri 8.00am Marie Hickey | |
| Fri 10.00am Harry Farnan | |
| Sat 10.00am Michael & Eileen Gilloughley John Mullane MM | |

Church of the Visitation Drynam

The Visitation of the BVM

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

If you have received a CHY4 form relating to tax relief on donations, please return it to Fr. Peter as soon as possible.

There will be no Baptisms in Drynam during June or during August this year.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

“The greatest things you’ll ever learn is to love and be loved in return.” The following words, attributed to Pedro Arrupe SJ, may up lift and inspire. “Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love, in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evening, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.”

Prayer - Jesus, you love the human race: let your love of us strike so deep a chord within us that our lives may resound to the music of that Gospel, drawing others to the leap of faith and the dance of joy.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948
Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at 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@eircom.



6th Sunday of Easter

Lourdes-Ave Maria

“Proclaim to the ends of the earth; the Lord has freed his people. alleluia”



Newsletter Sunday 25th May 2014

To coincide with the advertisement for our Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year, I thought that I would write a piece about Lourdes. Also as we at the final weekend of May, the month of Mary, a comment on this Marian Shrine may not go amiss.

Our pilgrimage will take place from Sunday, 7th September – Friday, 12th September 2014 . We will travel alongside Archbishop Diarmuid Martin and the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage again this year.

Travelling alongside the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage gives us the opportunity to join with other pilgrims from Dublin in the different ceremonies. The Mass of Welcome on the first evening is celebrated in St. Bernadette’s Church which is situated on the opposite side of the River Gave, facing the Grotto. On Our Lady’s Birthday, 8th September we are very privileged to celebrate Mass in the Grotto itself. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin is the principal celebrant at this Mass which is concelebrated by the all the Dublin priests. There is also the Penitential Service, the Blessed Sacrament Procession, Mass with anointing of the Sick and the Holy Hour and not forgetting the Torchlight Procession which is an unforgettable sight and which no words can adequately describe.

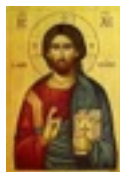
We also make time for our own more intimate ceremonies. We will travel to Bartres where we celebrate Mass in the Parish Church of John the Baptist where Bernadette herself prayed when she lived in the village.

Lourdes is a very special place. There are three Churches rising from the square, the Crypt, which was the first Church built in answer to Our Lady’s request to build a Chapel. It was consecrated in 1866 and Bernadette was present at its consecration. The Immaculate Conception Basilica was the second Church; it is directly over the Crypt. The Rosary Basilica was the third Church built; it is Byzantine in design with a central dome. On this dome is the beautiful Irish Cross erected by the National Pilgrimage in 1924.

The Grotto where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette is the centre of Lourdes. The entrance to the Grotto is at the end of Rosary Square, this also leads to the taps for the Lourdes water and to the baths. Very little has changed in the Grotto since Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. At the front edge of the Grotto under the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes is the massive candelabrum. Here the candles burn continuously day and night throughout the year. It is here that we remember our own Parish in our prayers.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, alleluia."



Sacrament of Confirmation-BNS

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS who received the Sacrament last Thursday, administered by Bishop Raymond Field. I thank all involved. Fr. Peter McCarron, chaplain to the Boys School, Mr. Tom Shields, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers: Mr. Jim Bennett (Principal),

Ms. Sarah Reilly and Mr. Oliver Fitzmaurice (Class Teachers), the Music teachers Ms. Blaithin White (Choir Director) Ms. Emer Conroy and Mr. Diarmuid Connell and organist Mr. John Burke. I also thank the Resource Teachers, Mr. Pat McGuinness and Ms. Lorraine Smith

Sacrament of Confirmation - GNS

Next Thursday 29th May, the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. On behalf of the Parish I am delighted to welcome Mgr. Lorcan O'Brein VG who will administer the Sacrament. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

Flowers

The flower arrangements in the Sanctuary for both the 1st Holy Communion days were beautiful and involved hours of work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords - Next Meeting 26th May. For further information please phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE To follow Christ the perfect human is to become more human oneself.... Vatican II, *Gaudium et spes*

Youth Services

The annual collection for CROSSCARE, Youth Services – Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses this weekend 24th/25th May. The collection will replace the usual Share collection

Crosscare – CYC

Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare reach out to young people who are in need by offering them support, encouragement and hope. The services provided are designed to help these young people fulfil their inherent God given potential (*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*)

Brackenstown, Rivervalley & Swords

Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage

Sunday 7th – Friday 12th September 2014

Spiritual Leader Fr Michael Carey Adm.

Price: €669.00 per person sharing

Price includes: Return flights Dublin Lourdes; Return airport transfers to Lourdes. 5 nights accommodation at Hotel Roissy (3*); Full board basis; Services of a Travel representative in Lourdes

Extras: Single room supplement €175.00 for duration of stay Airport taxes: €75.00

Insurance: €25.00 . ***Bookings: Parish Office, Colette, 8407277. Louise 8401188***



Exam Mass

This will take on **Sunday 1st June at 7.30pm**. Students will be invited write their names on a piece of paper and place it in the identified basket. This basket will be left in front of the Altar for the duration of the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams please feel free to put their name in the basket. Also a special candle will be lit and kept lighting for the duration of the exams

A Student's Prayer: *Lord, I have knowledge, so will you show me how to use it wisely and find a way to make the world I live in a better place, and make life with its problems a bit easier to face.*

May I ever be aware in all that I do that knowledge come from learning and wisdom comes from you. Amen

Golf Classic - St Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 6th June to raise funds for the Parish Development Fund. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event. If you wish to support this very worthy cause please contact John Campbell 0879079245, Bernie Campbell 0861519562 or Susan Kenna 0868152255.

Prayer to Our Lady for Vocations

Most holy Virgin, who without hesitation offered yourself to the Almighty for the carrying out of his plan of salvation, pour trust into the hearts of young people so that there may always be zealous

pastors who are able to guide the Christian people on the way of life,

and consecrated souls who may know how

to witness, in chastity, poverty, and obedience, to the freeing presence of your risen Son. Amen.

(Pope John Paul II)