

Faith for Life Course

What is this course? Well the text says 'It is a new course designed jointly by the Archdioceses of Dublin and Liverpool and is suitable for anyone seeking a deeper connection between their faith and their daily lives.' It was run over four weekends between November and March with 15 participants and concluded with a lovely graduation ceremony on 22nd April.

On a personal level it enabled me to reflect on my own Faith Journey since my baptism. My understanding and appreciation of Scripture was enhanced by practical discussions and imaginative exercises. I also learned about the importance of trust and that it takes courage and practise to really trust someone. This led me to thinking about my trust in Jesus and that I need to develop a greater trust in him which will come with time and prayer.

The course is based on Ignatian Spirituality which is rooted in the conviction that God is active, personal, and—above all—present to us in everything we do. It taught us among other things the importance of Daily Awareness and being in tune to what is happening within ourselves and around us.

The course is very well run .It is lively and interactive and provides an opportunity to: develop skills in compassionate listening, practice trust in groups, for an introduction to scripture, and learn about the role of prophets and the role of the church in the world.

We did some work on Catholic Social Teaching and Social injustice at local, national and international level which highlighted some areas of need in our own community. On the other hand we looked at what the signs of a vibrant community are and I am happy to say that St. Colmcille's displays many of these – Activities for all, celebrating the word of God, embracing community activities etc.

My wish leaving the course is that more people could experience the benefits of it. *And the good news is that they are hoping to run it again in the autumn.*

Written by Betty McDonald – member of the Parish Pastoral Council

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

Mon 8.00am Maureen Costello

Rita Ellis

Mon 10.00am Richard Forbes

Tues 8.00am Brendan O'Reilly

Tues 10.00 Patricia Donnelly

Wed 8.00am Health Intention

Wed 10.00am Bernie Nolan

Thurs 8.00 Ita Mongey

Thurs 10.00am Paddy Hanratty

Fri 8.00 am Sean Kennedy

Fri 10.00 Margaret Doyle

Mary Heron

Sat 16th No 10.00am Mass

Sat 6.30pm Joan mcGee

Sun 8.30am James & Mary Stafford

Sun 11.00am Margaret Prendergast

Eileen Penston

Sun 6.30pm Philip Loughrey Grant

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

13 children will make their First Holy Communion today at 12:00 Mass. Warm congratulations to each of them and their families!



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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

'Have you filled out all the necessary forms?'

"Proclaim to the ends of the earth; The Lord has freed his people, alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 10th May 2015



Good morning, and welcome to the people of God. My name is Jesus. I understand that you have applied to be a Christian. Have you filled out all the necessary forms? Good. Before you start work here, you ought to understand what's expected of you. So I have put together this job description that you have just heard. Let's go over it point by point, shall we? And if you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

It was not you who chose me but I chose you. You may be surprised to hear this, but I have had my eye on you long before you heard of me. I went to a lot of trouble to get you on the waiting list.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. You must understand that the Christian way is the way of joy. Our firm has suffered a lot because some people associate us with black clothes and long faces. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction of terms. Since I conquered sin and death and won for everyone a shot at eternal life you'd think people would lighten up.

What are your duties? Very simple: *Love one another as I love you.* That's a big order, but my Father and I are confident that, with our help, you can do it.

Do you have any questions? Yes.... You say that love cannot be *commanded*. Love, by its very nature, must be free. So how can I demand that you love other people? Well, I'm not asking you anything I haven't done myself. I laid down my life for all of you; there's no greater love than that.

Does that help? Good. Now this part about slaves and friends. You know my Father is so holy, so powerful, so mysterious and majestic, that our members are sometimes intimidated. Some of my public relations staff has done such a poor job that they make even me seem unapproachable. You must understand that you are not a hired hand around here. You don't have to call ahead for appointments; our door is always open. Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. This may be hard to believe, but my Father and I are calling you to *intimacy*. Think of yourself as a partner in the great work of bringing the world to God; that is why I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. That's how close we want to be. You are my friend if you do what I command you. And this I command you: love one another.

So....it's a deal? Good. Come this way and follow me, and I'll give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. (Source: *Sundays with Jesus; James DiGiacomo, SJ*)

Fr. Michael Carey

Annual Blessing of the Graves

Will take place on Sunday 28th June beginning with Mass at 4.00 p.m.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “ If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord ”

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS who received their First Holy Communion yesterday. I thank all involved - Sr. Margaret, Parish Sister and Mr. David Begg, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers: Ms. Karen Burke-Logue (Principal), Ms. Aoibheann McMonagle and Ms. Susan Howard (Class Teachers) and the Music teachers Mrs. Mary Downey, Ms. Sarah Grealis (Choir Director), Ms. Orla Daly (Organist) and the 5th & 6th class choir. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulation to the girls' parents and families

Next Saturday, 16th May at 11am, the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day. ***There is no 10.00am Mass on this day***

Marriage Matters – Reflect before you change it

Various newsletters and comments by the Archbishop and the Irish Catholic Bishops's Conference will be left on the tables at the back of our churches. I invite you to take home and read.

Sunday Mass

I appreciate that you may be bringing a person with limited mobility to Mass but if you park your cars in front of the gates the wheelchair bound people are finding it difficult to gain access.

Parish Holiday

There are still bookings coming in, but it is *slowing down*. **There is a still an opportunity to book!** Our Parish holiday is a lovely and safe way of travelling (especially if you are looking for someone/group to go with on holiday) and seeing a part of the world. Everything is organised to a very high standard. There are organised trips and time for people to do their 'own thing'. ***We have eighteen people booked at the moment – why not consider it!***

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE At the evening of life, we shall be judged on love.... *St. John of the Cross (1542-1591) Spanish mystic and Doctor of the Church*

Liturgy Team

The Liturgy Team will meet next Wednesday 13th May at 7.20pm in the Parochial House

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Love, or charity, has often been described as the primary Christian virtue. If there were any doubt as to why it should be so today's gospel would dispel it. The Father's relationship with Jesus is seen in terms of love. So, too, is Jesus' relationship with his disciples. And it is love which Jesus commands his disciples to have for one another. Saint John puts this demand of Jesus in the context of his last supper conversation with his disciples, thus giving it added emphasis. Jesus' laying down his life for his friends is presented as the highest expression of love that any human being can have for another.

Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 5th June to raise funds for the redecoration of our Parish Church of St. Colmcille. 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 087 9079245, Bernie Campbell 086 1519562 or Susan Rallo 086 8152255

Photography: The Committee would love someone on the day to take photos of the Teams, so if you are a photographer and this suggestion interests you please give John or Bernie a call.

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 11th May. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

Lectio Divina

The group meets every Tuesday in the Parochial House Seatown Road, from **7.30pm to 8.30pm**. (please note new time) For anyone interested in developing scripture in their lives *All welcome*

St Vincent De Paul

The Monthly collection for the local Conference of St Vincent De Paul will take place after all Masses this weekend in St Colmcille's Church

Migraine Association of Ireland

Help is available for leaving Certificate Students who suffer from migraine. For further information contact the helpline 1850 200 378 or www.migraine.ie

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Grace Kelly Byrne, Caiden Eamonn Flynn, Syvana Leah Carroll, Megan Sarah Lynch

Anam Cara - Supporting Parents after Bereavement - is holding it's monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 20th May from 7:30pm to 9:00pm in Applewood Community Centre, Swords, All Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to bereaved parents. for further information contact: 01 4045378 Email: c.curley@anamcara.ie / www.anamcara.ie