

We devote time to those we love, and here we are dealing with the love of God who desires to talk to us and offer us words of life eternal.” *Pope Francis, 5th October 2017 Address to Church Relations Committee of the United Bible Societies*

### **Pope Francis’ Prayer to: MARY – Woman of Listening**

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears;  
grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus  
among the thousands of words of this world;  
grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live,  
to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.  
Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart,  
so that we may obey, unhesitating, the word of your Son Jesus;  
give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along,  
letting others direct our life.  
Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move “with haste” toward others,  
to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus,  
to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did. Amen.  
(Source: Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre)

*Fr. Michael Carey*

### ***Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass & 8.30am Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass via the Parish webcam***

**Sat 6.30pm** Kathleen Phelan

**Sun 8.30am** Thomas & Elizabeth O’Brien

**Sun 11.15am** John Bateman



### ***Mass intentions for next Next Week***

**Mon** 10.00am Peter O’Brien

**Mon** 10.00am Declan Hanratty

**Tues** 10.00am Joseph Bourke

**Tues** 10.00am Dec members of Agnew Family

**Wed** 10.00am Joseph Bourke

**Wed** 10.00am Charles & Noel Farrell

**Thurs** 10.00am Health Intention

**Thurs** 10.00am Rosanna Keenan

**Fri** 10.00am Special Intention

**Fri** 10.00am Philip Markey

**Sat** 6.30pm Helen Clarke

**Sun** 8.30am Eddie Buckley

**Sun** 11.15am Bridget & Jack

McNulty

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

Sunday Mass can be viewed through the Parish webcam during Level 5 restrictions



### **The Sunday Obligation**

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass

- **Mass Times during the Lockdown:** Mass is ‘On-line’ only and can be viewed through the Parish webcam. Mass Times are Monday to Saturday at 10.00am. Sunday at 11.15am **Webcam address:** [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com)

**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: Website: [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email:**

**stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**

**Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



### **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **The Word of God – Verbum Dei**

*“O sing a new song to the Lord”*

### **Newsletter Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**



The third Sunday of Ordinary Time is now **The Sunday of the Word of God** as established by Pope Francis. ‘Through the proclaimed biblical readings in the liturgy, God speaks to his people and Christ himself proclaims his Gospel; Christ is the centre and fullness of all Scripture, both the Old and New Testaments.

### **What is the Word of God?**

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God’s love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

### **The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures**

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit’s work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit’s inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

### **Some quotes:**

‘I am doing my duty, in obedience to Christ’s command: “Search the scriptures” (*John 5:39*), and “ask and you will find” (*Matt 7:7*) so Christ will not say to me... “You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God” (*Matt 22:29*). For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the one who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.’ *St Jerome, Prologue to the commentary of the Prophet Isaiah*

“There is no doubt that this primacy of holiness and prayer is inconceivable without a renewed listening to the word of God.” *St John Paul II, Novo Millennio Ineunte* “Allowing ourselves to be “wounded” by the word is indispensable for expressing verbally that which overflows from the heart...”

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us* **Pope Francis**



### 2021 Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

For the next 5 weeks during this Level 5 lockdown 2021 the Parish will host a special liturgy every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** Evening at **7.00pm** beginning Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January The format will be:

A decade of the Rosary followed by Prayers

***In this challenging time; For those who care for the sick; Our Lady of Good Health***

- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “In a Landscape Redrawn”, by Bishop Donal Murray written in 2017
- The Night Prayer of the Church

This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam and should last about 30 minutes

The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com)

### Mass Intentions

*How can a book a Mass during these Covid times*

- 1) You can email your request to the Parish Office at [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)
- 2) Call to the Sacristy *before Mass* between 9.40am and 9.55am and *after Mass* from 10.30am to 10.45am

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we begin to read from the gospel of Mark and this will continue until the end of November apart from Lent and Eastertide. Mark is the shortest gospel and considered by most to be the first one. The passages are selected from the gospel of Mark in the order in which they occur so that come November we shall have worked our way through Mark. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### RECENTLY DECEASED

***Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:***

Kathleen Behan

Sandford Wood

### Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them BUT bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group extend our deepest sympathy to ALL bereaved people, especially those who have suffered bereavement during the Covid pandemic. If you would like to speak in confidence to a member please contact Terri from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> - 8403243 or email the Parish Office [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) - leaving your name and phone number. Your message will be forwarded to Bethany group You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections

The Church is closed for public Mass but is opened for private prayer. At the door of the Church there are pre-printed envelopes marked 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection. You are invited to put your offering in the envelopes and then place in the wall safes or under the Sacristy door.

Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

### Week of Christian Unity-2021

Every year from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme, ***'Abide in My Love..... You Shall Bear Much Fruit'***. It was discerned by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland and finds its origins in the Gospel of John (Jn.15:5-9). The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue. It is an opportunity to recognise and receive the richness and value that are present in the other, the different, and to ask God for the gift of unity. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) writes: “The immense numbers of people who have not received the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot leave us indifferent. Consequently, commitment to a unity which helps them to accept Jesus Christ can no longer be a matter of mere diplomacy or forced compliance, but rather an indispensable path to evangelisation” (E.G 246)

### Scripture Note –3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first half of Mark's Gospel (1:1-8:26) describes Jesus' ministry of healing and preaching in Galilee. Jesus begins his preaching by calling on people to repent and embrace the Good News. For Mark, 'believe in the Gospel' meant 'believe in the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.'

Repentance is one of the main theme of the readings. The First Reading relates how the preaching of Jonah met with an immediate response in the pagan city of Nineveh. The story shows the possibility of heathen city repenting and turning to God. It also shows the mercy and forgiveness of God.

If the Ninevites responded so fully to the preaching of Jonah, how much more fully should we respond to the preaching of Jesus. The Gospel shows the prompt response of the first disciples to his call to follow him.

Even though we can't share Paul's belief that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent, he still has an important message for us, namely, that this world is not the be-all and the end-all. We are destined for the next world. This should profoundly affect the way we live in this world. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)