

Tonight, at this Vigil, we celebrate the light of the risen Christ that begins to break through.

It was not that the Kingdom had disappeared, it is more that life's contradictions and crosses make it difficult to perceive. Looking with the eyes of faith, there are many moments through which the Kingdom of God, inaugurates life, and the death and Resurrection of Jesus, is made visible to us: the tender care of those looking after the sick; the dedication of those developing, securing and administering vaccines; the commitment of those who keep essential services going; in the solidarity of neighbours and community groups; and in the untiring efforts of the public authorities to protect and support the most vulnerable, signs of the love that triumphed over the darkness of the tomb. We see ourselves as a community sharing hope out of which we live. **To be a Christian is to be manifestly and always a person of hope.** The wounded and risen Christ gives us comfort and hope, standing in our midst and showing that death and the litany of difficulties and sufferings associated with the past year do not have the final word. *(continued next week).*

*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** Michael Reilly

**Sun 8.30am** Cora Mullarkey

**Sun 8.30am** Paddy Mahon

Vincent Harford(MM)



**Mass intentions for next Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

**Tues** 10.00am Kevin Brady

**Tues** 10.00am Gordon McDonald

**Tues** 10.00am Richard Forbes

**Wed** 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

**Wed** 10.00am John Conneely

**Thurs** 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

**Thurs** 10.00am Des Dempsey

**Fri** 10.00am Vincent Harford

**Fri** 10.00am Michael Doherty

**Sat** 6.30pm Bernadette & John Keenan

**Sun** 8.30am Paddy Gerrard

**Sun** 11.15am Gerard Travers

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

The Church will be open from 12pm - 1.30pm on Sunday's only for private prayer. Strict HSE guidelines are in place



**St. Vincent de Paul**

The monthly collection for February will take place **THIS** weekend, Sunday 9<sup>TH</sup> May. Envelopes will be left on the tables at the back of the church. These envelopes will be 'in situ' from Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May until Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May. All monies raised is kept in Swords

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** are offering telephone support, please contact Terri 01 8403243 from 9th May 16th May More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

**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 Email:**

**stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**

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



*My beloved father (Joseph), all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power*



Sixth Sunday of Easter

**To be a Christian is to be manifestly and always a person of hope.**

*“Proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia”*

**Newsletter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

We are now two thirds of the way through the Easter Season. I usually print the Archbishop's Easter Homily at some stage during the Easter Season and it falls on this Sixth Sunday of Easter – time is flying by, next Sunday we celebrate the Ascension and the Sunday after, Pentecost. It is the new Archbishop's first Easter Homily in his new Archdiocese of Dublin.

“For many, our celebration of Easter this year comes at the end of what seems to have been a very long Lent, many months and still counting. We have been convulsed by the sadness of innumerable deaths and so much sickness as a result of Covid-19. And we all have been starved of so many of those aspects of our lives that make them worth living: face-to-face conversations, sitting down with friends ... you know of what I speak.

It is perhaps Holy Saturday, rather than Lent, which best expresses in terms of our faith the nature of where we are as a country and a people. For the past 24 hours, the Church has marked the space between Calvary and Easter with a great silence and an emptiness symbolised by the stripping of the altars and the absence of Eucharistic celebrations. There is a sense of darkness, that numbness that follows the death of someone close, a mystery.

As we are brought from the sombre exchanges and gestures of Good Friday to the light and song of Easter Sunday, we remember the most radical act of solidarity of the Word made flesh. The Lord of life entered into the experience of total abandonment, penetrating to the very depths of hell. Like the Israelites in the Exodus reading, Christ is brought from the place of slavery and death, through the desert—for him the desert of the cross—to the promise of his Father. Christians know the one experiencing total abandonment, was not just a man, but was God himself. So, God knows what it is like to be afraid in an ICU unit.

The day draws to a close—Holy Saturday—is the feast day of those who experience loss and hopelessness. Its spirituality is the spirituality of silence and of waiting: we need this saving silence, we wait for new light to overcome darkness. It is in the silence we hear the beating of God's heart, there we can hear the voice, and sense the presence of the One who leads us out of darkness.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*May the Lord be a sure path beneath your feet,  
a bright light before you,*

*a kindly shepherd behind you;*

*this day, this night and always.....St. Colmcille (Celebrating 1500 years)*



### Welcome Back

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May we can celebrate again Mass in public. It is GREAT NEWS. We are still operating under social distancing requirements and can I PLEASE ask that everybody at Mass please wear a face-mask. If you don't want to wear one, then please do so out of consideration for others.

### Seating

St. Colmcille's has been marked out to observe social distancing. With the 2 metre rule the Church can only accommodate 48 people.

### More than 48

What happens when we reach the 48 limit? When that happens the volunteer stewards will inform you that the Church is full, that it has reached the limit demanded by Government regulations.

*It will be awful to be informed that you cannot come in to participate and celebrate in the Mass. It will also be awful for the volunteer who informs you of this!*

### EASTER - Liturgy/Prayer Service

I will continue this for the month of MAY on **Thursday Evening at 7.00pm**

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)

### The Sunday Obligation

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

### 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 or by phone 01-8400547

### 6th 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. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### LAUNCH OF TASK FORCE: BUILDING HOPE

Archbishop Dermot Farrell has attended the first meeting of the Task Force on a Church for the Dublin Archdiocese of Tomorrow which he has established under the title, ***Building Hope***.

The Task Force is chaired by Very Rev Monsignor Ciaran O'Carroll, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Administrator of Donnybrook Parish. Speaking to the members at the first meeting, Archbishop Farrell said: 'I am very pleased that the Task Force reflects the diversity of the Archdiocese of Dublin, in terms of geography, expertise and the balance between lay and clerical, and male and female members. The dialogue within the Task Force will stimulate engagement with the whole diocesan family and shape an inclusive approach to a pastoral strategy appropriate to our times.'

The Archbishop said that the terms of reference which he has given to the Task Force begin with an assessment of the needs of the people of the Archdiocese emerging from COVID-19. He expects its work to support parish communities to undertake a radical renewal, looking to the future with creativity. The Archbishop stressed his expectation that the Task Force will enable the Archdiocese of Dublin to act now, so as to give effective witness and service in the years ahead.

The Archbishop has asked the Task Force to present an interim report by the end of June and to conclude its work by the end of the summer.

### Pandemic Prayer

Pope Francis has asked for a *marathon of prayer* during the month of May to bring an end to the pandemic.

### **Pope Francis Prayer for Protection from the Coronavirus**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the All People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,

and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test

– and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.