

He told us in John's Gospel that when he was lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself. He began the process on the cross, which too was a lifting up from the earth and completes it in the Ascension.

The cross and the Ascension are part of the same escalator, so to speak – one great sweeping act of salvation.

We are children of the light, rising to new and everlasting life. The Lord has set a goal for us to aim at. And we know that it's a goal that we can reach. Our hearts are full of hope – where he has gone, we hope to follow.

The Ascension assures us that the longing for happiness and fullness of life which is deeply imprinted within every person can ultimately be fulfilled, that it will really happen. (Based on 'He's Risen', a reflection by Fr. Phelim McGowan SJ)

*Fr. Michael Carey Ad*

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

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Denis & Josephine Phelan	<b>Sun 6.30pm</b> Pat & Ella Kearns
<b>Tues</b> 8.00 Special Intention	Anna Redmond
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Special intention	<b>Sun 8.30am</b> Kay & Frank O'Rourke
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Frances Oxberry	<b>Sun 10.00am</b> Fr Declan McHugh
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Johnny Melia	<b>Sun 11.30 am</b> Johnny Wynne
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00 am Health Intention	Nellie Clune MM
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Thomas Savage	<b>Sun 7.30pm</b> Thomas, Annie & James McKenna
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Altar list of the Dead	
<b>Sat</b> 10.00am John Murray	

**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**



Please encourage your children to read the Look Sunday sheet available at the back of the Church. Put together by Redemptorist Publications it explains today's Gospel story in a fun way. Suitable for 4 – 9 year olds (and maybe some of us adults). Don't forget to bring a copy with you for children at home.

**Fundraising Coffee Morning**

Our Parish Grouping of Brackenstown; River Valley; Swords; will hold a coffee morning in our respective Parishes, on the same day Sat 7th June in aid of St. Columba's Church of Ireland Parish. **St. Colmcille's will hold it in the Church after the 10.00am Morning Mass** in which we will celebrate the Feast of St. Colmcille.

We see this as a practical gesture of Christian solidarity with our fellow Christians. If you cannot make the coffee morning but would like to make a donation, you can leave it in the Sacristy of St. Colmcille's or the Church of the Visitation, Drynam. Thank You.

**Returning to God**

We were born in exile and die there too. As soon as we set sail on the great voyage of life, we begin our return. We spend our lives dreaming of a homeland we have never seen. Like homing birds that are released in a strange country, and know no rest until they return home, so it is with us. When we die, we do not so much go to God as return to him. You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you

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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)



**Feast of the Ascension**

*“Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.  
 alleluia”*

**Newsletter Sunday 1st June 2014**



In a certain sense the Ascension, or the last experience of the risen Jesus to his friends is like a graduation ceremony. Jesus had been instructing his disciples, men and women, throughout his life, not only in public (Mt. 13:24) but in private (Jn. 13:36). Up until now, they were 'disciples' that is students, but now he makes his 'apostles' his ambassadors (2. Cor.5:20). From now on they will be on their own. They will no longer be able to come back to their master to share their experiences (Lk.10:17) and their joy (v.21). Jesus tells them, however that they will not be entirely alone. They will have the Spirit (Lk.24:29). In this way, therefore, they will remain his disciples, always be deepening their understanding of Jesus' teaching (Jn. 14:26)

What is really happening at the Ascension? Well Jesus is returning to the Father. He has completed his mission and his Father is taking him home. It is a most intimate meeting: "Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of the Lord". In our prayer we can ask that we might enter the atmosphere of the Ascension. We should try and be joyful for them. We need to be filled with wonder and awe at what is taking place. Two of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are reverence and wonder and awe in the presence of God. As we lead up to the Feast of Pentecost next week why not pray about those two gifts and try and imagine or enter into the Joy of God, the joy of the Trinity at the Ascension. For the Gospel tells us that the disciples worshipped Jesus "and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually praising God" (Mt.28: 20)

They are starting their journey back to their Father in the same atmosphere, peace and joy, as the gospel began, although it is now Christianised. St. Matthew puts it another way: at the conception, Joseph is told Jesus' name will be 'Emmanuel' that is, God-with-us (Mt.28-20), when he tells his friends, 'I am with you always to the end of time.' The gospel tells us how the human expression of God the Father, Jesus, did this and actually fulfilled himself and enabled us to become his brothers and sisters (Jn.20:17b). Perhaps it is due to that that there doesn't seem to be any nostalgia for the 'good old days' with Jesus during his mortal life, which is really quite remarkable.

By virtue of our callings as Christians, we are meant to be optimistic people, full of hope and deep rooted confidence and joy about our future. The ascension, which marks the final departure of Christ from his friends on earth, celebrates that hope.

Today's feast gives us a glimpse of the destiny that awaits us. As Christians we don't die direction-less. We die in the knowledge of where Christ has gone.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?, alleluia."*

#### Sacrament of Confirmation-GNS

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS who received the Sacrament last Thursday, administered by Monsignor Lorcan O'Brien VG. I thank all involved - Srs. Margaret and Mary, Parish Sisters and Mr. David Begg, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers: Ms. Mary Downey (Principal), Ms. Phil Cushen; Ms. Edel Collins; and Ms. Orla Daly (Class Teachers) and the Music teachers Ms. Ann Mills (Choir Director), Ms. Susan Howard; Ms. Fiona O'Regan and organist Ms. Orla Daly and the 5<sup>th</sup> class choir. Also the musicians, Ms. Aoibheann McMonagle; Ms. Sarah Grealis and Ms. Aideen Lineen. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulation to the girls' parents and families. Thank you also to Avril O'Reilly for the beautiful 'gifts of the Holy Spirit which adorn the altar.



#### Feast of St. Colmcille – Sat 7th June - our Parish Feast Day.

As is the norm in our Parish, our Feast day is celebrated on the Saturday before the Feast Day – June 9<sup>th</sup>, which this year is **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at the 10.00am Mass**. As usual the congregation will be sprinkled with water from St. Colmcille's well and you may also take some home with you (bring a bottle). Also this year we will do something slightly different. St. Colmcille is also known as St. Columba, the name of the Church of Ireland Parish in Swords, who are currently undergoing a 'roof restoration appeal'. We normally serve light refreshments after this Mass but this year we will have a fundraising coffee morning in aid of St. Columba's Parish. See box below.

#### Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 4pm

As we prepare for Cemetery Sunday we need your help. At the moment Paddy Gerrard, Domnic Temple and Noel Markey are doing all the grass and hedge cutting. It is a huge task and becoming too much for them. Can you help? It is an ideal Corporal Work of Mercy. Please consider and if you can assist you can ring Paddy at 01-8401466.

#### St. Colmcille's - Summer Schedule

To enable myself and Frs. Pat and Johnny to take summer holidays and recharge the batteries the 10.00am Sunday Morning Mass will be dropped for July and August and the first half of September. It will return on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September. I am sorry for the disappointment that this will cause to the 'regulars' at this Mass but I hope that you understand. There is a 10.00am Mass in the Church of the Visitation, Drynam and St. Finian's, River Valley

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE** Jesus Christ is the centre of all things and the foundation for all things; he/she who does not know him knows nothing about the world and nothing about himself/herself.... Blaise Pascal (1588-1651)

#### St. Colmcille's Cemetery Sunday

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June the Parish will celebrate the Annual Blessing of Graves at 4pm. This year will be slightly different. The priests will divide the graveyard into roughly 10 stations/sections and at each station/section, the Scripture will be proclaimed followed by a Prayer of Blessing and then the sprinkling of the graves. On that Sunday Morning one of the Masses will be offered for all who are buried in the Cemetery.

**The parish of St. Finian, River Valley is recruiting a Parish Secretary. Details are on the Church noticeboard**

### Brackenstown, Rivervalley & Swords

#### Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage

*Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### The Ascension of the Lord - (World Communications Day)

We could ask, how is the Risen Lord with us? The New Testament and the Church tradition offer a rich array of "presences." Christ is present in the neighbour in need, in created reality beautiful and awe inspiring, whenever the disciples gather, in the word proclaimed, in the sacrament celebrated and through the Holy Spirit. Perhaps we do not always feel this presence, but the words of Jesus are a guarantee that no matter what is going on in my life or my community or my Church, he is with us, our Emmanuel.

**Prayer** - Emmanuel – God with us – we thank you that you are indeed always with us. Help us to find you and recognise where you truly are and not just where we want you to be.