

Tonight we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: *the right to hope*. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these weeks, we have kept repeating, “All will be well”, clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus’ hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost! *(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 7.00pm Easter Mass Bouquet Cards
Sun 11.15am Easter Mass Bouquet Cards



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Tony Walsh (1st An)	Sat 10.00am Special intention
Mon 10.00am Turlough O’Carolán (MM)	Sat 6.30pm Mark Perry
Tues 10.00am Health Intention	Sun 8.30am The Jubilarians
Tues 10.00am Joseph Coleman	Sun 11.15am John Collins
Wed 10.00am Special Intention	
Wed 10.00am David McConnell	
Thurs 10.00am Michael & Mary Vessey Mary Stafford	
Thurs 10.00am Chrissy Campion	
Fri 10.00am Special intention	
Fri 10.00am Health Intention	

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



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



Easter Sunday

Sowing seeds of hope – for with God nothing is lost

“The Lord is truly risen, alleluia”

Newsletter, Sunday 4th April 2021

Over the next fortnight the newsletter will be taken from an Easter Vigil/Sunday homily given by Pope Francis

“After the Sabbath” (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday’s cross to Easter Sunday’s Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for “the dawn of the first day of the week”, the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, **sowing seeds of hope!** With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen” (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: “Do not be afraid” (v. 10). *Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear*: This is the *message of hope*. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

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)*



EASTER

Resurrexit sicut dixit

'He has risen as he said'. Risen Lord, kindle again in our hearts the fire of faith. May we be bearers of the light and joy of Easter faith to all whom we meet. The Lord is risen – he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter Sunday

Our Easter celebration calls us to seek to strengthen our belief that new Life comes from an empty tomb. Our Easter celebration calls us to seek encounters with the risen Lord and believing that we in turn can be that presence of new Life for others. Our Easter amazement does not centre so much on whether or not we believe in Jesus' resurrection – we do! Our amazement is over the fact that we can encounter the risen Lord ourselves, that Jesus' new life is our own Life, and that he works through us to bring his risen Life to others

Easter Blessing

On behalf of myself, the Priests of the Parish, the Parish Sisters, the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to extend to all Parishioners of St. Colmcille's Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam and readers of this newsletter, the grace and blessings of the Easter Season. Happy Easter – the Lord is Risen. Alleluia

Easter Dues

A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues envelopes. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. *If you did not receive an Easter Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church.*

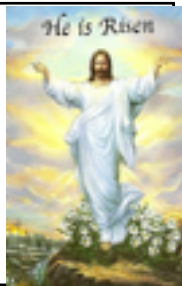
Mass Intentions

How can a book a Mass during these Covid times

- 1) You can email your request to the Parish Office at stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com
- 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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter Sunday. Every Eucharist is a commemoration and a realisation of the Easter Mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. On this day of days the community of the Church shows how seriously it takes the words of Saint Paul that if Christ is not raised from the dead then our faith is in vain. In other words, the resurrection of the Lord is the reason for the existence of Christianity. (Source: St. Paul's Missal).



Scripture Note –Easter Sunday

The reading from Acts is part of an early sermon of Peter. In it he summarises the ministry of Jesus, which culminated in his death. But it didn't end there; God raised him to life, allowing him to be seen by certain witnesses, Peter among them. He goes on to declare that Jesus is the one all the prophets spoke about (the Messiah). All who believe in him will have their sins forgiven.



The Gospel tells about the discovery of the empty tomb. The empty tomb (with the discarded linen cloths) in itself is not a direct proof of the resurrection. Nevertheless, it was the first step towards establishing the truth that Jesus had escaped the bonds of death, and prepared the disciples to encounter the Risen Lord.

Many readings in the Easter cycle instruct the newly baptised on the Christian way of life. Today's Second Reading and its alternative are good examples. Thus the Easter season provides us with an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be baptised members of Christ's Body. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group are offering telephone support, please contact Terri 8403243 from Sunday 4th April to Saturday 10th April. More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

It's good to talk. Do not grieve alone or unaided.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted".

Youth Initiatives

YCD Connected – Bringing Young People Together

The Young Church Dublin invite you to join our connected group for Young Adults (20's 30's) We meet online every Wednesday, from 8.00-9.00pm for some time of fellow, reflection on Scripture and prayer together. It provides an opportunity to connect in with other young adults in a community of faith. For more information please email: kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie

Faithfest Online

Faithfest is back!! Join us for an evening of games, music, workshop, chats and prayer. Faithfest will take place 5 March from 6:30 – 8:30 online. You can register online using this link: <https://forms.gle/DwKDsXCuTornHFYA8>. For more information email: faithfest@dublindiocese.ie