

So the person who has access to heaven, and who can provide access for us, is Jesus our Lord. He's facilitator, trailblazer and more abundantly still – he's Saviour. The prospect for us is to go where he has gone – Christ today; the rest of us tomorrow. For that reason, above all, Christ's ascension to heaven is full of promise and hope. The preface in today's Mass gives powerful expression to that hope when it says: 'Christ is the beginning, the head of the Church; where he has gone, we hope to follow'. (Source: *These Might Help* – Bishop Joseph Cassidy)

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Cathal Kelly	Sat 10.00pm Tommy McKitterick & Family
Mon 10.00am Ann Fennelly	
Tues 8.00am Breda Duffy	
Tues 10.00am Joseph O'Reilly	Sun 6.30am Joe Tully
Wed 8.00am Mary Phelan	Pat Fitzpatrick (MM)
Wed 10.00 Margaret Doyle & Mary Heron Heron	Sun 8.00am Patrick & Ella Kearns
Thurs 8.00am Cathal Kelly	Special Intention
Thurs 10.00am Michael Briody	Sun 11.00am Frank Marron
Fri 8.00am Altar list of the Dead	Albert Fleming (MM)
Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead	Sun 6.30pm Martin McTiernan

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon Mon & Tues 9.20am

We will have a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting tomorrow Monday at 8:00PM. There will be a Fundraising Meeting on Tuesday at 7:30PM.

Thank you to all who helped and attended the recent very successful concert featuring the award winning Our Lady of Victories Choir, Scoil an Duinninigh Choir, Orla Nic Reamoinn, Seán Mac Domhnaill; members of our own choir: Renata Behan; Helen, Paul and Ciaran McLoughlin. We raised €3000 for the new church building fund!



Exam Mass

This takes place on **Sunday 4th June at 6.30pm**. 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.

The following is a prayer for parents to help them, as they try to support their child through the stress of these exams.

Dear Lord,

I pray for my child and all students about to sit exams.

Help them to keep calm and clear-minded.

Fill them with your peace so that they may be able to make best use of their abilities, the study they have done and the education they have been blessed with.

Do not let the burden of fear and nervousness prevent them from doing as well as they deserve. However, teach them not to measure their self worth by the mark they receive but rather by the effort they put in.

Guide their footsteps when they walk alone, but help them also to be there for each other, supporting and encouraging in the truest spirit of friendship.

Lord, bless everyone today who has given of themselves to these students on their journey, teachers, family, friends and fellow classmates.

Teach them to be thankful, that despite the stress and worry that exams bring, they have this opportunity that many young people all over the world are deprived of.

May the light of Jesus shine gently on them now and during any difficult times they might face on their journey through life. Amen

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)

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

Ascension Sunday

A going that didn't make Christ gone!

"The Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 28th May 2017

I don't think that the Ascension of Our Lord makes much of an impact on the mind of the ordinary Christian. On the scale of one to ten, I don't think it would score as highly at all as the Nativity, the Crucifixion or the Resurrection. We tend to think of the Ascension as a tail-piece, an add on!

It is a going that didn't make Christ gone, as the Nativity made him born, the Crucifixion made him dead and the Resurrection made him risen. Rather it seems to be a going that lacks completeness, a boomerang almost, in that he's with us anyway.

BUT! Our Lord's Ascension marks a very important transition. It represents his triumphant entry into glory. Christ's body was glorified at the moment of Resurrection. How do we know this? Because we read in Luke and John's Gospel that it had new supernatural properties or characteristics. It was capable of things of which the ordinary human body is not capable. St. Luke tells us, for instance, that when he had broken the bread in Emmaus with his two companions, 'their eyes were opened and they recognised him, but he had vanished from their sight' (Lk 24:31). Vanishing is not within the capacity of the ordinary body. Similarly, St. John tells us that on Easter Sunday evening, when the disciples were gathered in a room where the doors were closed, 'Jesus came and stood among them' (Jn 20:19). Closed doors, we're being told, presented no obstacles to his risen body. During the forty days, between the Resurrection and the Ascension, when he talked or ate or drank with them, Jesus' risen glory was veiled from his disciples. He looked as human as ever, so to speak! He made several appearances to them in ordinary human form, doing ordinary human things. Peter tells us in the Acts of the Apostles: 'We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead' (Act 10:41), and Luke informs us that when he appeared to the eleven apostles 'they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, "See by my hands and my feet that it is I myself. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have... Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes' (Lk 24:38-43). So the Ascension represents the Lord's triumphant return to heaven in glory. His earthly mission as the visible Jesus Christ has been accomplished. The Ascension is a soaring achievement, which has consequences for us all!

What does it mean for us? You and I could never make heaven on our own. Mankind may have managed it to the moon, but only Jesus has managed as Ascension! The only one to make it back on his own is the one who already has come down. The Incarnation and the Ascension are separate in time but perfectly in balance. They move in opposite directions but in heavenly harmony. What one began, the other completes. St. John expressed that very clearly when he said: 'No one has gone up to heaven, except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven (Jn 3:13).



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia

1st Holy Communion - GNS

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS who received their First Holy Communion last Saturday. I thank all involved - Sr. Margaret and especially the Principal and Teachers: Ms. Karen Burke-Logue (Principal), Ms. Eileen O'Brien and Ms. Anne Marie Keenan (Class Teachers) and SNA, Ms. Maureen Donohue. The music and singing was wonderful. Thank you to the 5th and 6th class girls and the Music Director, Ms. Kate McEaney and Organist, Ms. Trish Enright. Afterwards there was a lovely reception in the School hosted by the Parents Association and free ice cream from an 'ice cream' van was provided – a lovely touch. I had a '99'. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulation to the girls' parents and families



A wonderful Evening of Song!

On Friday before last, 19th May I attended with many in the Parish, the fundraising concert for the new church in the RIASC Centre, Drynam. By the way the centre is absolutely fabulous and thank you to the Swords Baptist Church for hosting the event and providing their help and services. The main attraction was the **Our Lady of Victories Gospel Choir** and they were brilliant. A group of about 30 and they sang their hearts out and not only that but they provided their services for free. A big thank you! There were other surprises on the night namely the local talent who were also terrific. The children from Scoil an Duinnigh accompanied and directed by Principal, Noirin Ni Laighin performed a selection of traditional Irish music and songs. Sean Mac Domhnaill who attends the 11.00am Sunday Mass in Drynam sang two pieces of music, including a lovely rendition of 'The Impossible Dream'.

Orla Nic Reamoinn sang and played the keyboard, 'at the same time' and had the audiences 'in stitches' with her anecdotes which she told in music and song. She finished with a rousing rendition of the 'Can Can'. Young Paul McLoughlin, a member of Drynam Parish Choir and the OLV Gospel Choir, compared the evening very well. Des Connell gave a very good address and launched the fundraising event. All in all, a fantastic evening and a big thank you to everyone involved especially Renata Behan and the Drynam fundraising committee

Golf Classic – Bumper Raffle

Tickets on sale outside the church this weekend and next after all weekend masses – also on sale in sacristy. TICKETS €5.00 A STRIP OR 3 STRIPS FOR €10.00
ALL FUNDS TO GO TOWARDS PARISH RE-DECORATING OF THE CHURCH.
Raffle will be held @ our annual Golf classic Thursday June 8TH **Great Prizes !**

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group will meet in the Parochial House on Monday 29th May at 7.30pm. All Fingal residents are welcome.

Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd October We have a group of 31 from all over – still seats available.

Ecumenical Bible Week –Swords- 6th to 8th June

This is an exciting and successful venture which is now on its fourth year. It includes parish based events around Dublin and surrounding areas. For 2017, the topic is 'Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ' (Rom 10.17).

St. Colmcille's Church, Swords is hosting this event over three days:

- **The Bible and your 'Other' – Faith beyond Frontiers**

Tuesday June 6 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Presenter: Jools Hamilton (Methodist Chaplain to Trinity College. Founder of YouthSpirit and so-founder of The Good Summit he travels widely as a preacher, speaker, teacher and facilitator)

- **Christianity – A Beautiful Insanity!!**

Wednesday June 7 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Presenter: Frank Brown (Parish Pastoral Worker in the Clondalkin area)

- **Listening to Hear**

Thursday June 8 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Presenter: Éibhlís NicUaithuas DC (A Daughter of Charity and Spiritual Director. Co-ordinator of biblical studies in the Archdiocese of Dublin)

There is no cost, or pre booking required– **just turn up!**

REMINDER – taking place in the CHURCH (admission Free)

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 12th August. Coach departs at 8.00am from The Star. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel Strokestown. Cost - (coach only) €15. Please contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 8402268

The annual commemoration ceremony for the servant of God, Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, will take place in Glasnevin cemetery on Sunday June 4th at 3pm. All are welcome

The Pro Life Campaign, will be holding a public information meeting on Tuesday, 30th May, in Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, at 8pm. The aim of the meeting is to inform people about the current situation as regards the 8th Amendment - Ireland's 'Right to Life' amendment. and to encourage more people to become informed and get involved to defend it, as it is a true milestone for equality and authentic human rights. For more information, visit www.prolifecampaign.ie or tel: (01) 662 9275

Come and Pray: The Annual Gathering of Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will take place in Clonliffe Church at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 29 May 2017. This will be an opportunity to pray, reflect and sing together as we give thanks for the grace of this important ministry. Music will be led by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group. If interested contact Colette at the Parish Office. Bring a cushion!!