

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, that person will save it” (Lk 9:23-24)

This theme of dying and living again is found many times in the teaching of Jesus. Unless the grain of wheat dies, it cannot yield a harvest. Unless a man is born again, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself had to die in order to live, “I lay down my life,” he said, “in order that I may take it up again” (Jn 10:17).

These saying about new birth and new life, about dying and living again, were to take on an added meaning after the Resurrection of Jesus. But even before that, people were slowly coming to a better understanding of what he meant by the Kingdom of God. It was not an earthly kingdom but a spiritual one. Those who accepted it lived by the law of love. This could be painful and it could involve something which Jesus called “dying”; but it led to something far more valuable which he called “life”. (Source. *Jesus of Nazareth – Veritas Publications 1978*)

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 Kevin Wynne

Sun 8.30am Lindsey Kelly

Sun 11.15am Seamus Dolan

Brendan Lawless(MM)



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Desmond Walsh

Mon 10.00am Joseph & Kathleen Coleman

Tues 10.00am Sr Leonard

Tues 10.00am Peadar Elmore

Wed 10.00am Ben Geoghegan

Thurs 10.00am Mary Moore & Dec family members

Thurs 10.00am Christopher & Carmel Morgan

Derek McKenna

Fri 10.00am Mai Ryan

Fri 10.00am Derek McKenna

Sat 10.00am Eugene Queeran

Sat 6.30pm Donie & Jenny Stapleton & daughter Jean

Sun 8.30am Pat Sheedy

Sun 11.15am Johnny & Peggy Reid

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Eamonn Bracken

Highfield Crescent

Ann Mongan

UK

James Feterston

Highfield Crescent

Christine Campion

Formerly Jugback Lane



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 you.

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



1st Sunday of Lent

The life of a wandering preacher -Final

“When he calls on me, I will answer him”

Newsletter Sunday 21st February 2021



The newsletter series about ‘Jesus, the wandering preacher’ will finish this Sunday. Last week’s newsletter was about, ‘the Kingdom as the loving gift of God’. This week’s is about ‘the response that man/woman is to make to the gift offered them’. It is actually very appropriate to Lent

Accepting the Offer

The coming of the Kingdom involved two things. The first was the offer of God’s love. The second was the accepting of that love by us. How did one accept it? What response did one make?

We have already seen how Mark summarised it: “Repent and believe the Good News” (Mk 1:15). This was the response to be made to God’s love: repentance and belief. The two went together. It was not enough to believe: there had to be a change of attitude, a conversion, the start of a new life.

To be sorry for one’s past sins was only the beginning, but it was an essential beginning. Before the new life could be lived, a real break had to be made with the old one. When Zachaeus the tax-collector welcomed Jesus to his house and promised to make restitution to anyone he had cheated, Jesus said, “Today salvation has come to this house” (Lk 19:9).

Breaking with the old life was only the beginning. The important thing was living the new life and the way to do this could be summed up in a single word: love. God offered his love to us and we must respond by loving God and by loving our neighbour. When Jesus was asked by a scribe which was the first of all the commandments, he replied:

“This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself” (Mk 12:28-34).

On the night before his death, he returned to the theme of love, and gave his followers what is called a new commandment. “Love one another as I have loved you. One can have no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:12-13). All the moral teaching of Jesus was based on that simple message: love God, love one another. He warned that it was not easy to obey the new commandment and accept the new rule of conduct. It demanded courage and self-sacrifice and even some kind of dying if one wanted to live the new life of the Kingdom.

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**



LENT - Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

This special Liturgy takes place during **Lent** every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** Evening at **7.00pm. The Format is as follows:**

- A Station of the Cross by Timothy Radcliffe OP
- A decade of the Rosary
- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “The Seven Last Words”, by Timothy Radcliffe OP
- 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

Trocaire

Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around! The Trociare boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information. **Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to**

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

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for February will take place **THIS** weekend, Sunday 21st February. Envelopes will be left on the tables at the back of the church. These envelopes will be ‘in situ’ from Sunday 21st Feb until Saturday 27th Feb. All monies raised is kept in Swords

Staying the Course

Wednesday's Ashes are a memory now! *If indeed you received them on that strange Covid Ash Wednesday.* Just a few days after being reminded that we are dust and unto dust we shall return or that we should turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, nobody would know that our foreheads bore the mark of the ash and the sign of the Cross. Still though, we know it and somewhere in the depths of our Souls, we know that mark makes all the difference. It reassures us that the road we travel has been travelled before and the steps we take are taken on a well-trodden path. We strive to be faithful to the path and still, somehow, we wander and stray a little, border on being lost but remain confident that we are searched for and found.

What do I give up for Lent

Last Sunday the Archbishop suggested the following:

“What do we do? Lent starts on Wednesday next. With it the recurring Catholic question: What will I give up for Lent? The drink or sweets, binging on ‘Netflix’ or taking to social media to vent our grievances? The waistline penance, fast for the new swimwear, the *Costa del Sol* look. Not too bad, but not particularly Christian, hardly in the image of Christ. This Lent do not think just about giving up something; **simply give.** Not something; someone. Give yourself. Imitate the compassionate Christ. Be honest and humble before with one another. Listen when someone asks you for a few minutes of your time, for the compassion in your heart. If you hear that plea, try not to ignore it. It just might be Christ”.

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 email the parish office stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com - leaving your name and phone number. Your message will be forwarded to Bethany Group. Or from 21st February to 27th February contact Sr. Mary - 8404323 -between 6pm - 9.00pm, You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

1st and 2nd 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 1st and 2nd 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!!!

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. For more information 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

1st Sunday of Lent

Lent coincides with springtime and in fact the word itself probably comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning the lengthening of the days that occurs in spring. And indeed spring is not a bad image for Lent. Spring is the time of new life when the long nights of winter become a thing of the past. It is a time when the hearts of many people lift. Lent offers the possibility to renew and reawaken the life of the spirit and so is a season of joy. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)