

“Our pilgrimage of faith has been inseparably linked to Mary ever since Jesus, dying on the Cross, gave her to us as our Mother, saying: 'Behold your Mother!'. These words serve as a testament, bequeathing to the world a Mother. From that moment on, the Mother of God also became our Mother! When the faith of the disciples was most tested by difficulties and uncertainties, Jesus entrusted them to Mary, who was the first to believe, and whose faith would never fail. The 'woman' became our Mother when she lost her divine Son. Her sorrowing heart was enlarged to make room for all men and women, all, whether good or bad, and she loves them as she loved Jesus. The woman who at the wedding at Cana in Galilee gave her faith-filled cooperation so that the wonders of God could be displayed in the world, at Calvary kept alive the flame of faith in the resurrection of her Son, and she communicates this with maternal affection to each and every person. Mary becomes in this way a source of hope and true joy!

“The Mother of the Redeemer goes before us and continually strengthens us in faith, in our vocation and in our mission. By her example of humility and openness to God’s will she helps us to transmit our faith in a joyful proclamation of the Gospel to all, without reservation. In this way our mission will be fruitful, because it is modelled on the motherhood of Mary. To her let us entrust our journey of faith, the desires of our heart, our needs and the needs of the whole world, especially of those who hunger and thirst for justice and peace, and for God. Let us then together invoke her, and I invite you to invoke her three times, following the example of those brothers and sisters of Ephesus: Mother of God! Mother of God! Mother of God! Amen”

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 Raftery
Sun 8.30am Special intention
Sun 11.15am Lilian O'Reilly



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Mai Larkin	Sat 10.00am Tony McDonnell
Mon 10.00am Kate & Pat Kinsella	
Tues 10.00am Kathleen & Joseph Coleman	
Tues 10.00am Beatification of Alphonus Lambe	
Wed 10.00am Mary English	Sat 6.30pm Kathleen Phelan
Wed 10.00am Seamus Dunlop	Sun 8.30am Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien
Thurs 10.00am Jim Larkin	Sun 11.15am John Bateman
Thurs 10.00am Bartle McDonnell Snr	
Fri 10.00am George McDonnell	
Fri 10.00am Hughie & Molly Fields	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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



The Sunday Obligation

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

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. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord bless you and keep you

“All the earth shall bow down before you, O God”

Newsletter Sunday 17th January 2021



We are still early in the New Year and the Pope’s homily on 1st January, the Feast of Mary the Mother of God is very apt

“ God gave to Moses an ancient prayer of blessing to hand on to Aaron and his sons: 'The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace'. There is no more meaningful time than the beginning of a new year to hear these words of blessing: they will accompany our journey through the year opening up before us. They are words of strength, courage and hope. Not an illusory hope, based on frail human promises, or a naive hope which presumes that the future will be better simply because it is the future. Rather, it is a hope that has its foundation precisely in God’s blessing, a blessing which contains the greatest message of good wishes there can be; and this is the message which the Church brings to each of us, filled with the Lord’s loving care and providential help.

“The message of hope contained in this blessing was fully realised in a woman, Mary, who was destined to become the Mother of God, and it was fulfilled in her before all creatures. The Mother of God. This is the first and most important title of Our Lady. It refers to a quality, a role which the faith of the Christian people, in its tender and genuine devotion to our heavenly Mother, has understood from the beginning. We recall that great moment in the history of the ancient Church, the Council of Ephesus, in which the divine motherhood of the Virgin Mary was authoritatively defined. The truth of her divine maternity found an echo in Rome where, a little later, the Basilica of Saint Mary Major was built, the first Marian shrine in Rome and in the entire West, in which the image of the Mother of God – the Theotokos – is venerated under the title of Salus Populi Romani. It is said that the residents of Ephesus used to gather at the gates of the basilica where the bishops were meeting and shout, 'Mother of God!'. The faithful, by asking them to officially define this title of Our Lady, showed that they acknowledged her divine motherhood. Theirs was the spontaneous and sincere reaction of children who know their Mother well, for they love her with immense tenderness. But it is more: it is the sensus fidei of the holy People of God which, in its unity, never errs.

“Mary has always been present in the hearts, the piety and above all the pilgrimage of faith of the Christian people.'The Church journeys through time... and on this journey she proceeds along the path already trodden by the Virgin Mary'. Our journey of faith is the same as that of Mary, and so we feel that she is particularly close to us. As far as faith, the hinge of the Christian life, is concerned, the Mother of God shared our condition. She had to take the same path as ourselves, a path which is sometimes difficult and obscure. She had to advance in the 'pilgrimage of faith'.

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**



2021 Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

For the next 5 weeks during this Level 5 lockdown 2021 the Parish will host a special liturgy every **Tuesday** and **Thursday Evening at 7.00pm** beginning Tuesday 5th January. The format will be:

A decade of the Rosary followed by Prayers

In this challenging time; For those who care for the sick; Our Lady of Good Health

- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “In a Landscape Redrawn”, by Bishop Donal Murray written in 2017
- 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

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

Ordinary Time – cont'd

As I said last week Ordinary Time is about walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is by embracing the dying and rising mystery of Jesus that we receive the life of God within us and renew it each time we celebrate the liturgy. Although much of ordinary Time unfolds during the summer months when many are on holidays, when the heat brings us to slow down our pace of life (*we hope!*), when there is a change in our pace of lives if for no other reason that ‘school is out for summer’, we must be careful that Ordinary Time doesn’t become a temptation to ‘holiday’ from the demands of faithfully following Jesus.

• Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church

• 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

Mass Times during the Lockdown

Mass is ‘On-line’ only and can be viewed through the Parish webcam. Mass Times are Monday to Saturday at 10.00am. Sunday at 11.15am
Webcam address: www.swords-parish.com

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.

From Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd - contact Brid 0866006397. Please phone Brid after 6pm... You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Felix (Fay) Hardy

Sandford Wood

Michéal Savage

North Street

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. 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

The Young Church Dublin – Young Adult Alpha Course

The Young Church Dublin team would like to invite you to join us for our Young Adult Alpha online course which we will start from Monday, 18th January, from 7.00-8:15pm. The course will be run from the comfort of your own home over Zoom for 11 weeks until March 29th. This Alpha course with YCD is an opportunity for you to grow in your own faith. Alpha is also a wonderful opportunity for friends, family or community members to explore the Christian faith together. Taking part might even encourage you to run Alpha yourself in the future! All participants must register by emailing your name and contact details to kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie *Please note that numbers are limited.