

For many of us, God's transforming love is experienced in and through the relationships that matter to us. The experience of a human love that is faithful can be transforming, giving us a foretaste of that moment in eternity when we will experience God's love to the full.

### Extract from a homily by St. John Paul II

"In the event of the Transfiguration we contemplate the mysterious encounter between history, which is being built every day, and the blessed inheritance that awaits us in heaven in full union with Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believers... we are made for eternity and eternity begins at this very moment, since the Lord is among us and lives with and in his Church".

In 2002, St. John Paul II selected the Transfiguration as one of the five Luminous Mysteries of the rosary.

*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** Donie Jenny Stapleton & daughter Jean

**Sun 8.30am** Pat Sheehy

**Sun 11.15am** Johnny & Peggy Reid



### **Mass intentions for next Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Carmel Scully

**Mon** 10.00am Kevin Harford

**Tues** 10.00am Margaret O'Brien

**Tues** 10.00am In Honour & Thanksgiving of St Joseph

**Wed** 10.00am Health Intention

**Wed** 10.00am Pat Carey

**Thurs** 10.00am Robert Donovan

**Thurs** 10.00am Ann Farren & Eileen Bird

**Fri** 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

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**Sat** 10.00am Rose Geoghegan

**Sat** 6.30pm Tom McGinty

**Sun** 8.30am Richard O'Driscoll

**Sun** 11.15am Nancy & John Donlon

### **Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**

The Church will be open from 12pm - 2pm on Sunday's only for private prayer.

Strict HSE guidelines are in place



### **Novena of Grace**

The St. Francis Xavier Novena Prayer will be recited at all Masses in St. Colmcille's from the 4<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> March inclusive

The Novena of Grave Prayer is available at the back of the Church, please take a copy 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. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



2nd Sunday of Lent

### **We cannot stay on top of the Mountain**

*"It is your face, O Lord, that I seek: hide not your face from me"*

**Newsletter Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**



If you look at a marble statue, especially one that you delight in, it is easy to forget that this wonderful sculpture was once a rough block of marble cut out of the mountainside. In a similar way, a painter takes a blank canvas and transfigures it into an image that people delight in looking at. Or a writer takes blank pages and transfigures them into something engaging and absorbing to read.

People too can be transfigured. One obvious example being, people at an airport waiting on a loved one. They search each face as the passengers come through the arrival doors. When they recognise their loved one, their faces light up. In a sense, they become transfigured.

All of us, I am sure, would have had transfiguration moments. Such moments will often be times when we hear our name spoken in love, when we have a deep sense that we are accepted and valued by someone. We find it easy to remember these moments and in more difficult times we can find ourselves going back to such moments in memory and continuing to draw life from them. Such experiences live on in our memories, and can sustain us long after they have happened.

We need this sustaining memory and this ability to reflect, because *we cannot stay on top of the mountain* – we cannot build three tents as Peter wanted to do in order to stay there, in order to stay in the moment. The moment ends and we have to come down.

But in coming down the mountain, the Lord is with us and this is where we need him most – in the ordinary 'hum drum' of everyday living.

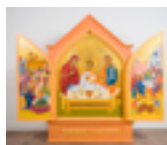
But it is in these ordinary moments that the Lord continues to reach out and touch us – but we must have eyes with which to see, ears with which to hear. These transfiguration moments, the sense of God saying to us, 'You are my chosen one' can come to us through an experience of prayer, an experience of nature - which can leave us with a deep feeling of wonder and gratitude. It can come through the celebration of the sacraments. God's love can touch us at a very deep level in and through the sacrament of reconciliation or the sacrament of the Eucharist. We can come away from those sacramental moments transfigured in some way.

In the Gospel, Jesus on the mountain, experienced a love that was faithful enough to carry him through his passing in Jerusalem, (in other words, his death.) and the experience of such a love was transfiguring.

Hopefully there will be moments in our own lives when we experience God as Jesus did on that mountain, in a way that leaves us transfigured in the very depths of our being.

## 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)*

### Thank You's

**Weekday and Sunday Mass** – I thank Srs. Margaret and Mary for setting up the Church each morning for Mass and sanitising it after Mass in preparation for opening. I thank the Sacristan Jeanette Devine who disinfects the Church and washes the floors a number of times a week and for throwing 'her eye' over everything to make sure all in the Church is okay

**Sunday Mass** – I thank Morgan Crowley (Choir Director) and Helen Dignam (Choir Soloist) for their beautiful singing and harmonies which enrich the Sunday Liturgy and is much appreciated by all who view via the Parish Webcam

**Church Decor** – I thank Sr Margaret and Avril O'Reilly for the Lenten Desert in front of the altar and the Lenten banners. Avril keeps the desert looking well and adds a 'picture' each week to reflect the Gospel of the Sunday. The desert is best viewed on the webcam

**Ash Wednesday** - I thank Colette Stokes (Parish Secretary) who painstakingly filled 250 envelopes with ashes and put a prayer on the label of each envelope/sachet. The ashes 'flew off the shelves'

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

### The Stations of the Cross

The devotion which we call the Stations of the Cross grew up in Jerusalem, where pilgrims used to visit and pray at the places associated with the passion and death of Our Lord. Those who cannot make the journey to Jerusalem can still follow Jesus as he makes his last journey of His earthly life, from the judgement seat of Pilate to the Hill of Calvary. At each of the fourteen stopping places or stations, we pause to remember what happened there, and we ask God to deepen our understanding of what was taking place on Calvary, to gather us into the mystery of our redemption.

**Covid 19** – *I am sorry to say that people cannot walk around the Church to pray the stations. You may do so by standing at the back of the Church. If people walk around the Church it will have to be sanitised every day, which we cannot do. The back of the Church, where people are confined to, is sanitised each and every day*

### 2nd Sunday of Lent

As Lent progresses, the shadow of the cross begins to loom. Even though the gospel narrates the account of the transfiguration of Jesus in glory it is in the light of his death and resurrection that this scene is to be viewed. The last sentence makes this clear. The obedience of Jesus is seen to be prefigured in that of Abraham who offered his only son, and through him his hope of descendants, to God when commanded to do so. God's promise to Abraham subsequently is also seen to have been fulfilled in a manner beyond all expectation by his raising of Jesus from death. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### Scripture Note – 2nd Sunday of Lent

The transfiguration is an epiphany story. Epiphany stories are common in ancient writing about holy people. In these stories, the veil which separates the invisible world, and the future from the present, is removed for a moment, and the truth is revealed. This is the earliest epiphany story about Jesus, older than the voice at his baptism, and older than the manifestation of Jesus to the Magi.

It is no longer possible to say what happened on the mountain. The first and chief significance of the event was for Jesus himself. It was meant to confirm him in the course he had taken. But is also benefited the apostles, and it is this that Mark emphasises. In the transfigured Jesus they got a glimpse of the glory of the risen Lord. Even so, they would not understand until Jesus had risen from the dead.

On the mountain Elijah and Moses appeared to them. Moses represents the law, Elijah the prophets. This Jesus is seen as bringing the law and the prophets to fulfilment.

The First Reading shows the depth of Abraham's faith in God. Living among the Canaanites who practiced human sacrifice, we see his agonising effort to do what he thought God wanted of him. Abraham's great faith was rewarded.

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**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** are offering telephone support, please contact Brid - 086 6006397 from 28th February to 6th March after 6.00pm. More details are on the Parish website