

So, let us look now at some of the words and phrases Jesus might write beneath our feet today, knowing that we have tried to respond to the needs of those put before us during the Lenten Campaign.

“Thank you”. “Insofar as you did it to one of the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it for me”. “Well done good and faithful servant”. As for images or emojis! Surely, a smiling face and a thumbs up. Trócaire

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Fintan Butterly	
Mon 10.00am Kathleen & Ernest McMahon	Sat 6.30pm John Collins
Tues 8.00am Mikey Parker	
Tues 10.00am Nancy Savage	
Wed 8.00am Michael & Kathleen Ferris	Sun 8.30am Tom & Alice Kane
Wed 10.00am Thomas Noctor	Vera & Vinnie Pepper
Thurs 8.00am Special Intention	
Thurs 10.00am Bartle & Elizabeth Weston	Sun 11.15am Matt Caul
Fri 8.00am Bridie Cunningham	Patrick Stafford (MM)
Fri 10.00am Ellen Farrell	

At our Masses next weekend we also remember: Alan Kavanagh

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

We will have a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting on Tuesday at 8:00 PM.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Liz Martin	Broadmeadow
Cindy Foran	Ashley Ave



St Vincent De Paul Advocate Collection

The annual Advocate collection for the Sunshine Fund takes place on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April. The Sunshine Fund, a special works conference of the St. Vincent de Paul provides summer holidays for children all over Dublin who need a holiday. This collection is their only source of funds. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 17th April at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

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



5th Sunday of Lent

Dust on the Ground

*“Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause
against a nation that is faithless”*

Newsletter Sunday 7th April 2019



We began our Lenten journey, allowing the dust of ashes be placed on our foreheads. We talked about this a few weeks ago: “Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return” and here we are, almost at journey’s end and focused once again on dust ... not the dust of ashes but the dust on the ground, dust used by Jesus to be his canvas as he wrote words that nobody seemed to read.

We know the story well. A woman dragged into a hostile crowd and left there, standing before Jesus. No words exchanged between them. Chances are, like the father in last week’s Gospel passage, he saw her while she was still a long way off. Neither of them needed words. The speaking was done by her accusers. “Caught”, they told him, “in the very act of committing adultery”. Then they brought Moses into it, telling Jesus that Moses demanded women like this be stoned to death. “What do you say?” In their minds the answer was clear – in their hands they held the stones. That’s when he started to write.

Bent downwards, his finger traced letters, words, images maybe in the sand but he said nothing. They were not happy with that response. They wanted him to say “Stone her” so that other words he had spoken about forgiveness, second chances, turning the other cheek, treating others as you would want them to treat you, would all be overshadowed by his condemnation of this woman. He kept writing – doodling, in the dust. An answer was demanded “What have you to say?” It must have seemed like an eternity to them – the time between the question and the response. “Let the one among you who has never sinned, throw the first stone”. Turning to the ground – the dust, he begins to write again. Stones dropped, shuffling steps, muffled voices until he was alone – alone with the woman. “No condemnation?” She shakes her head. “Neither do I condemn you. Go away and sin no more”. Trócaire. Mercy!

What is he writing on the land today? In the dust? “Grabbing”, “Oppression”, “Greed”, “Justice”, “Truth”, “Equality”, “NOW”. Bent down, he’s avoiding eye contact because maybe he wants us to arrive at a place without feeling he’s looking directly at us, a place where we do the right thing by people, drop the stones and walk but is that enough? They walked away from the woman that day and, in walking away from her they also walked away from him. You’d like to think they might have dropped the stones, looked at her and with him, chosen not to condemn – to walk towards.

Through these weeks of Lent we have had the chance to walk towards people in their time and place of need. We have in the Trócaire Lenten Campaign, been brought face to face with people who otherwise we would not encounter. We have had the chance to hear some of their words and to respond in a meaningful way. With Jesus, we have had the chance to make a difference – not loud or dramatic, just in the quietness of reflection and in the generosity of sharing.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words....
Please. Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



Sacrament of Confirmation - 2019

Over the past fortnight, the Parish celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for the boys and girls. We had two wonderful ceremonies and the boys and girls and their parents and families were delighted. The Church was at its best and looked lovely. For that I particularly thank God's housekeepers and the flower ladies (Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney).

GNS – Wednesday 27th March

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Karen Burke Logue (Principal) and Ms. Robyn O'Brien and Ms. Bronagh Leddy (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The 5th Class girls sang very well, so well done girls and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms. Ailbhe Moyne (Conductor) Ms. Tricia Enright (Organist). I thank also Mr. David Begg, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school.

BNS – Wednesday 3rd April

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Ciara Brangan (Principal) and Ms. Emma Taylor and Ms Teresa Timmons (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The 5th Class boys sang very well, so well done boys and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms Ciara Reynolds and Mr. Conor Brennan (Class Teachers) and Ms. Elaine Clarke (Resource Teacher) and Ms. Blaithe White (Choir Director) and organist Mr. John Burke. I thank also Brid Ni Ghearilt, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

Parish Initiative for Lent?

For this Lenten season, the parish Liturgy Team have come up with something new and it is going very well. For each of the Wednesday's of Lent a difference group in the Parish will pray the Stations of the Cross. This will take place on Wednesday Evening at 7.30pm and each week they will follow a different theme and all are welcome. This week *is the final week*, and the Members of the *Parish Lectio Group* will pray the Stations on **WEDNESDAY 10th April at 7.30pm** in St. Colmcille's. Please do come along and attend



God's Housekeepers

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 12th April** after the 10.00am Mass. Can cleaning group 1 for this Friday please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019

The three Parishes in Swords have arranged buses to Knock for the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. We invite you to join our Pilgrimage and celebrate 140 years since the apparition in 1879

The buses will leave at 7:30am on Saturday 27th April. Cost of the bus is €20 and Children under 16 €10 Please bring a Packed Lunch – Tea & Coffee available in St. John's Centre, Knock. Bus will stop for 15 minutes on the way down and back.

To book please contact Colette at the Parish Office



God's Housekeepers

We have a core team of cleaners but it dwindling very quickly – two or three people are turning up each fortnight. **The Parish Needs You!** The Church is cleaned twice a month – the first and third Friday after the 10.00am morning Mass. Can you help? Can you pick one of those Friday's and help with this vital ministry so that we always have a clean and welcoming Church. **IT IS ONLY 30 MINUTES ONCE A MONTH.** You can leave your name Jeanette in the Sacristy or with Colette in the Parish Office. For clarification the next few cleaning dates are **Friday 12th April; 26th April; 10th May.** This ministry is open to men and women.

Easter Cards

The Easter cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad.



The Bethany Bereavement Support Group advises with regret that our twice monthly support meetings are suspended until further notice. Hopefully this is a short interruption and meetings will resume as soon as possible.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 8th April at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Liturgy Team

This team will meet on Tuesday 9th April at 8.00pm in the Parochial House