

Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that *explains*, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak”.

**Prayer to St Joseph**

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. 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** Patrick Stafford (An)

**Sun 8.30am** Vera Barker (An)

**Sun 11.15am** Gerry Foley (An)



**Mass intentions for next Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Kathleen Elmore

**Mon** 10.00am Bridie O’Sullivan

**Tues** 10.00am Chrissie Campion

**Tues** 10.00am George Frederick Battams

**Wed** 10.00am Carmel O’Keefe

**Wed** 10.00am Walter Higgins

**Thurs** 10.00am John Heaslip

**Thurs** 10.00am James Fetherson

**Fri** 10.00am Chrissie Campion

**Fri** 10.00am Special intention

**Sat** 10.00am Dec Members of Jennings family

**Sat** 6.30pm Brian Taylor & dec members of Taylor & McKenna family

**Sun** 8.30am Gloria O’Brien

**Sun** 11.15am Mary O’Connor

**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



**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**



***My beloved father (Joseph), all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power***



*4th Sunday of Lent*

**The seeds had been sown**

*“Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her”*

Newsletter Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021



With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church by Blessed Pope Pius IX. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

**A beloved, tender, obedient father**

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people”. In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us”.

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation”.

**Welcoming the will of God**

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the



## 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)*



### Parish Finances

**THANK YOU** – The Covid19 pandemic and the series of lockdowns have been with us now for a year. If you remember we were closed for St. Patrick's Day 2020. Since that time our finances are holding up quite well. The Parish income is in the main from Standing Orders; Planned Giving Envelopes and the Shrines and all are doing well. So thank you for continuing with your Standing Orders. Thank you to all who drop in the Planned Giving Envelopes to the Sacristy or drop them in the wall safes. Thanks to all who light candles and thank you to the parishioners who put a cheque or cash in support of the Parish in an envelope and drop it into the Sacristy

### 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.

### St Joseph

As you can see from the front page of the newsletter, this Year has been marked by Pope Francis as the Year of St. Joseph. His Feast Day is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Joseph- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, not a single word of his is recorded in Sacred Scripture and yet St. Joseph is one of the greatest and most popular saints, largely because of his humility and his closeness to Our Lord. He died before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and, since he probably dies in the presence of Jesus and Mary, is venerated as the patron of a good death

### Trocaire

If you haven't taken a Trocaire Box and would still like to make a contribution, Trocaire has supplied envelopes which you can post direct or leave in Safes or Sacristy

### 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

### Mother's Day

Thank you Lord for all mothers. On this day let us think of them whether they are with us or gone to their heavenly reward. We think of their kindness, their compassion, their care for us and all their unconditional love. We pray that you will watch over them and support them in the joys and struggles of their daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (A Prayer for Mother's Day from The Family Book of Prayer)



### St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for February will take place **THIS** weekend, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Envelopes will be left on the tables at the back of the church. These envelopes will be 'in situ' from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March until Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. All monies raised is kept in Swords

### Saint Patrick - (Patron of Ireland – March 17th)

Patrick was born very probably in the early years of the fifth century in Britain. He was taken captive at the age of 16 and brought to Ireland, where he worked as a slave. His captivity had a very positive effect on his spiritual life. He escaped back home at the age of 22. It was obvious to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. After studies in Europe he returned to Ireland and made a very large number of converts. His spiritual journey is recounted in his Confession. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)



### RECENTLY DECEASED

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:**

Turlough O'Carolan

Oaklands Ave

### 4th Sunday of Lent

Today's passage from John's gospel contains one of the most well known sentences of all scripture, the one which declares that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son. So in human terms, God's motive for sending Jesus among us is love. In other words, all God's actions towards us and his dealings with us are inspired by love. This is good news and if we didn't know it before now, now is the time to take this insight on board and to let it begin to change us.

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** are offering telephone support, please contact Bridget - 085 2812985 from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

### Scripture Note –4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

The First Reading shows how God remained faithful to his people in spite of their infidelities. God's promises were not nullified by the sins of his people. It was because of their sins that God allowed his people to be exiled to Babylon. But his mercy is seen in their home-coming. This leads into the Gospel. God's love and mercy are seen in the fact that he sent his Son to save us. Jesus came into the world as a light. Sadly, some preferred darkness to the light, thus sealing their own condemnation. Judgment is not passed by God; people judge themselves by their response to the light.

The reading from Ephesians stresses the enormity of the love God has shown us in Christ. It makes it clear that we owe our salvation, not to our own efforts, but to the goodness of God. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)