

A compassionate society will do all in its power to support and love the mother and baby, and encourage responsible support from fathers. This vision of life makes sense to people of all faiths and none. While it is enriched by our Catholic faith, it is our common humanity that convinces us of the right to life of every human being.

A declaration of equality

Article 40.3.3 is a declaration of equality and respect for human life. It represents, at the very foundations and substructure of our laws, a conviction that all human life is worth cherishing equally. To repeal this Article would leave unborn children at the mercy of whatever permissive abortion laws might be introduced in Ireland in the future.

We invite people of faith to pray earnestly that Ireland will “choose life” and that the lives of all women and their unborn children will always be loved, valued, welcomed and respected in this country.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Barbara Conlon

Mon 10.00am Ann Yorke

Tues 8.00am Special intention

Tues 10.00am Ann & Joseph Welsh

Wed 8.00am Jim McGlade

Wed 10.00am Venerable Edel Quinn

Thurs 8.00am Declan Garry

Thurs 10.00am Gerry Foley

Fri 8.00am Dolores Brannagan

Fri 10.00am John & Anthony O'Donnell

Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer

Sun 6.30pm Harry Sheridan

Joan O’Gorman (MM)

Ursula Murphy(1st An)

Sun 8.30am Leo Callis

Sun 11.00am Tommy McKittrick

Thomas Fitzsimons (1st An)

Sun 6.30pm Martin McTiernan

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

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

See <https://www.worldmeeting2018.ie> for information on the WMOF from 21 to 26 August. Let us know if you would like to join a Drynam group to register.

Pentecost Sunday

“Come, Holy Spirit!” Where truth, love, goodness, peace, kindness, wisdom, courage, patience, and many others of his fruits are present, there the Spirit is active. In so many different ways, the Spirit reminds the world of the Gospel.

The word ‘Pentecost’ meaning ‘fiftieth day’ was the name given to the Feast of Weeks in the Jewish calendar because it fell on the fiftieth day after Passover. In the Christian tradition it was applied to the feast of the descent of the Holy Spirit because this event is portrayed as occurring fifty days after Easter Sunday. After Easter it has been described as the second festival of the Church. Pentecost Sunday marks the close of Eastertide. (Source: *St. Paul’s Missal*)

The Annual Blessing of the Graves in St Colmcille’s Cemetery will take place on Sunday 24th June commencing with Mass at 4.00pm

God’s Housekeepers

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 25th May** after the 10.00am Mass. Can cleaning group for this Friday please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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



Pentecost Sunday

Our Common Humanity

*“The love of God has been poured into our hearts,
alleluia”*



Newsletter Sunday 20th May 2018

With the referendum this coming Friday, I am printing a reflection from the Bishop’s Conference.

As pastors we are aware that the conversation about unborn life is sensitive, delicate and, indeed, painful for many. We offer our reflections with the greatest of respect for everyone while wishing to make some points clearly and unambiguously.

Fundamental right

Every one of us has a right to our life. It is not given to us by the *Constitution of Ireland* or by any law. We have it ‘as of right’, whether we are wealthy or poor, healthy or sick. All human beings have it. For us as a society to now declare that any category of human being should have that right taken from them would be a shocking step. It effectively says that unborn children do not exist or, if they do, they do not count. That is a manifest injustice.

Life begins at conception

At every point, from conception on, the baby has the potential to realise the fullness of life that God intended. All that is needed is time and nurturing. Today we see more clearly that human life begins at conception. There is no later stage in a baby’s development where we can say, ‘up until now the foetus was not a person and now it has become a baby’.

Are we allowing ourselves to be desensitised?

Making abortion freely available desensitises people to the value of every human life. The scientific evidence about the beginning of human life has never been clearer. It is, therefore, a great irony that we in Ireland are for the first time in our history losing our clarity about the right to life of the unborn. Knowledge about the mysterious workings of DNA and the stunningly vivid evidence of ultrasound images of little persons in the earliest weeks in the womb should be making us more committed than ever to the protection of unborn life.

Choose life

The child in the womb has life and potential. However, like all babies, before birth or in the early years, she or he has no choice. Powerless to defend themselves they rely on the rest of us to protect their lives and vindicate their rights. By using the word ‘choice’ we need to remember that, for the baby waiting to be born, the choice we make can be a matter of life or death.

Two lives, one love

An expectant mother needs and deserves the care and support of everyone around her, particularly if her pregnancy poses a serious crisis for her and her family. A mother may be informed that her baby faces serious challenges or is perhaps terminally ill. She might be pregnant as a result of rape. Especially in those tragic cases both the mother and her unborn child can - and must - be loved and cherished.

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.*



Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-26th May, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In the Prayer Book it is week 4

Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on **Friday 8th June** to raise funds for the Parish. Again I thank you for your support in previous years which raised the funds necessary for the Painting of the Church which has delighted us all in the Parish. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event. If you wish to support this very worthy cause, please contact John Campbell 087 9079245.

Ecumenical Bible Week

Ecumenical Bible Week will take place from 20th-27th May 2018. Now in its fifth year, it is a parish-based event that is jointly sponsored by the Archdiocese of Dublin, the combined dioceses of Dublin & Glendalough, and other key groups such as Scripture Union. The theme this year is *'Handing on Faith - Crisis, Challenge and the Great Commission'*. It begins on Pentecost Sunday with the launch event, *'Praying the New Cosmology'*, and will take place in 13 venues across Dublin and surrounding areas.

Two key events take place in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe, Dublin 3 on Thursday 24th May.

- Symposium chaired by Brenda Drumm which will include presenters John Waters – *'Taking us Back to the Father'*; Ginie Kennerley – *'The Family Today: Healing and Expansion in Christ'*; and Nick Park – *'Modern Family - Ancient Problems'*. Time 2-5pm. Cost €12. Pre-registration required at www.bibleweek.ie

- *'Thinking Allowed'* - What have we from our personal experience discovered about living and passion on the faith? A chaired panel discussion with audience participation.

Panelists will include three married couples from different Christian experiences, Archbishop Eamon Martin (Armagh) and Archbishop Michael Jackson (Dublin). Free event, starts at 7.30pm.

Further information and free downloads and material on www.bibleweek.ie and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bibleweekie

Exam Mass

This takes place this **Sunday 3rd June at 6.30pm**. Students will be invited write their names on a piece of paper and place it in the identified basket. This basket will be left in front of the Altar for the duration of the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams, please feel free to put their name in the basket. Also a special candle will be lit and kept lighting for the duration of the exams.

Sunday Mass CHANGES for July 2018

The present weekend Mass schedule for Swords/Drynam is as follows:

Saturday (Vigil) 6.30pm – Folk Group

Sunday: 8.30am; 10.00am (Drynam); 11.00am – Choir and 6.30pm

This Schedule is unsustainable for me. I fully appreciate that you may consider Swords as having two priests. But that is **NOT** the case. There is only me and I am very ably assisted by Fr. Pat Shiel who is a retired priest. Fr. Pat is very gracious in assisting and is going way beyond the 'call of duty' in doing as much as he does.

I have been discussing various options with the Parish Pastoral Council, who concur completely with the need for St. Colmcille's to drop a Sunday Mass. As you know Swords Parish is part of a grouping with Brackenstown and River Valley Parishes. After months of discussion with the PPC and the priests of the three Swords Parishes a decision was finally agreed.

St. Colmcille's will be dropping the Sunday evening 6.30pm Mass **BUT** our parish grouping will have a Sunday evening Mass as the demand is there for one.

St. Cronan's Brackenstown currently have Sunday Evening Mass at 5.30pm.

Next Sunday 20th May both parishes will be inviting those who attend the evening Mass on that Sunday as to whether you would like this Mass to be at either 5.30pm; 6.00pm or 6.30pm.

I have no doubt that some or many will be disappointed and I am truly sorry for that. The change reflects the falling number of priests but as I have stated the priests of the Swords grouping are providing a Sunday evening Mass

With effect from **Sunday 1st July 2018** a new weekend arrangement is to come into place in Swords/Drynam Parish.

SATURDAY :Vigil 6.30pm – Folk Group(also Parish Schools Sacramental Programmes)

SUNDAY 8.30am Mass; 10.00am – Drynam; 11.15am – Choir

Please note that the 11.00am Mass will move to **11.15am** to facilitate if necessary the priest being able to say Mass in Drynam and then come to Swords. The **Sunday Evening Mass** for the Grouping of Swords Parishes will be celebrated in **St. Cronan's Brackenstown** from this date

Inter - Parish Picnic

The three Parishes of Swords are planning a Parish Picnic on Sunday June 10th. This is an initiative to celebrate and prepare for the World Meeting of Families at the end of August.

Venue: Colaiste Choilm – Swords

Time: 12.30pm

We will meet at 11.45am at St. Colmcille's Swords and walk to the venue (or you can make your own way there for 12.30pm).

What else?

Bring a picnic, chair and a blanket. After the Mass there will be: Face painting; Music; Dancing; Balloons; Ice-cream; games and a children's area.

To facilitate this Mass, the three parishes are cancelling their last Mass on the Sunday morning for this event – to that end the 11.00am Mass in Swords is cancelled for this Sunday.

Stewards are required – we will give you a 'High Vis Jacket'! - if you are available to help on the day, please leave your name and number in the Parish Office. *Thank You*