

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John's Gospel puts before the believer a grand array of I Am sentences, rooted in the name of God in Exodus 3:14, I am who I am. I am the bread of life (Jn 6:35, 48, 51); I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12; 9:5); I am the gate for the sheep (Jn 10:7, 9); I am the good shepherd (Jn 10:11, 14); I am the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25); I am the way, and the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6); I am the true vine (Jn 15:1, 5). Altogether, they constitute a resounding reminder that we believe first of all in a person, not in a philosophy.

Prayer - Jesus, present to us always, you wept at the tomb of your friend Lazarus. As we face the mystery of death, our own and that of those we love, help us build our faith on your resurrection from the dead. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Kathleen Byrne & Bridie Keenan

Mon 10.00am Kevin & Annie Wynne

Tues 8.00am Joseph Hatch

Tues 10.00am J. C. Savage

Wed 8.00am Special intention

Wed 10.00 Elizabeth McKitterick

Thurs 8.00am Martin Coogan

Thurs 10.00am Patrick Donovan

Fri 8.00am Altar list of the Dead

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Sat 10.00am Joseph Coleman

Sat 6.30pm Kathleen Taylor

Sun 8.30am David McDonnell

Sun 11.00am John Collins

John Joyce (MM)

Sun 6.30pm Josie & Billy Ryan & Paddy Ryan

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass) & 12 noon

, Mon & Tues 9.20am

We will have tea and coffee after Masses today. Please drop in. We are planning a Fundraising Concert in aid of the Church Building Fund on Friday 19 May 8pm in the RIASC Centre. The headline line act will be Our Lady of Victories Gospel Choir, Ballymun.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Cathal Kelly

Oaklands Ave



Sacrament of Reconciliation

When we examine our conscience prior to going to Confession, we usually ask ourselves, 'What sins have I committed?' We rarely look at our sins of omission, which may well be our worst sins. We may think we are good simply because we don't do anyone any harm, But, what about the good we fail to do?

From a Christian point of view, there is only one real failure in life – the failure to love. If one's love is active, failure to reach perfection in other areas of one's life will be forgiven. But there is no substitute for active love.

Confessions for Lent: St. Colmcille's – Holy Thursday 12.30pm to 1.00pm and after the 7.30pm Mass. **Good Friday** 10.00am to 11.30am and **Holy Saturday** 12noon to 1.00pm.

Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam – Good Friday after 12 noon Stations of the Cross.

Penitential Services: River Valley Monday 10th April at 7.30pm and

Brackenstown – Tuesday 11th April at 7.30pm

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-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

Lazarus, here! Come out!

"For you, O God, are my strength"

Newsletter Sunday 2nd April 2017

(Come forth Lazarus) In today's gospel, Jesus is surrounded by a culture of death. The disciples are afraid to go back to Bethany, the Jews want to stone Jesus to death, Mary and Martha are distraught over the death of their brother Lazarus, and Lazarus himself lies bound in the darkness of the tomb. It appears as if there is no hope. We are told that Jesus weeps because of his friend but perhaps he also weeps because of the lack of hope and faith in those around him.

Since 2010, over one hundred Honduran human rights activists have been murdered. One of the most high profile cases was the indigenous and environmental rights campaigner Berta Cáceres, who was killed in her home in March 2016. She had been leading the campaign against Central America's biggest hydropower project, a cascade of four dams in the Gualcarque river basin, which has the backing of international engineering and finance companies from Europe. These dams will do untold damage to an already fragile ecological system. Her colleagues and friends continue the campaign in full knowledge of the dangers of being an activist in Honduras. Their courage and determination give hope to thousands of people struggling to survive.

In today's gospel, Jesus, surrounded by a culture of violence and despair, gives hope, compassion, resurrection and love to those who are in turmoil. It is easy to say that nothing can be done. It is easy to remain cynical. But if we remain hopeless then nothing will be achieved. Jesus says, 'Lazarus, come out.' And to the people he says, 'Unbind him, let him go.' It is a message for all of us to come away from the culture of death. We need help to unbind one another. We are called to take away the stone, to come out of the tomb, to unbind the oppressed and let them free. What we do, what we buy, how we use the plentiful resources at our disposal all affect the wider global community. Today's gospel is a story of liberation. Jesus gives a new insight into the power of faith over death. When we feel helpless where situations of injustice are concerned, we must remember that we are full of light, we can do small things, we can help to remove the restraints of injustice instead of sitting in the darkness.

All it takes is one good person to restore hope! ... In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound ... the principle of the common good immediately becomes a summons to solidarity with the poorest of our brothers and sisters. (Laudato Si', 71, 158)

Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hope is knowing that there is love, it is trust in tomorrow, it is falling asleep and waking to work when the sun rises. In the midst of a gale at sea, it is to discover land. In the eyes of another, it is to see understanding. As long as there is hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in his loving hands. (Henri Nouwen) (Source: Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017).

Fr. Michael Carey



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord



Lenten Wildernis

In both St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam, there are beautiful Lenten Desserts, each highlighting a different approach to the journey through Lent. I want to acknowledge and thank the artistic endeavours of the creators of these lovely works of liturgical art and decor.

Bible Read-athon

Thank you to all who have placed their names on the Read – athon list. I hope the evening goes well. It is on this **Tuesday 4th April from 7.00pm to 9.00pm**. If you haven't put your name down, please feel free to drop into the Church and see the Read-athon in progress.

Scoil an Duinnigh

The celebration of the Sacrament of confirmation was a lovely occasion. I was delighted to welcome Bishop Faichra O' Ceallaigh who confirmed the children. The school choir was excellent and well done to the class teacher Carleen Nic Giolla Bhríde and Principal Noirin ni Laighin. I hope the families and the newly confirmed had a lovely day.

Confirmation Mass

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday Evening Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and their families and praying with them.

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

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second national collection will be held this weekend. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support for last year's first national collection.



Liturgy Group

The Liturgy group will meet in the **Sacristy** on Tuesday 4th April at 8.00pm

A date for your diary: The fundraising committee will be running its annual Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on Thursday 8th June 2017 (note this year it is on Thursday and not Friday)

Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd October

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is subject to availability.

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.* Entrance fees where applicable.

This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111** MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

Holy Week-next week

In Holy Week we celebrate the Mystery of our Salvation in Jesus Christ. These final days in the earthly life of Christ begin with his triumphal entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem. The liturgy of Palm Sunday too begins with this joyful entry into Jerusalem, the procession of Palm branches. These branches are not simply blessed objects, but signs of joyful participation in this procession and an expression of the faith of the Church in Christ. Later, during the Liturgy of the Word, we listen attentively to the account of the Passion – glory and suffering, the characteristic which is present throughout the entirety of Holy Week. (Source: *Glenstal Sunday Missal*)

New members are welcome to Victory Pitch and Putt Club, The Brock inn, Ashbourne Road. Contact Ann 086 3640663, Pat 086 8882853.

New Support Coordination Services for Older People in North Dublin City & County

A new Support Coordination Service for older people has been launched in the Dublin North City and County area. ALONE, the charity that supports older people to age at home, has partnered with the HSE to expand its support services to all older people living in these communities. The ALONE Support Coordination Service aims to respond to and address any issues facing older people, which are impacting on their ability to remain living independently in their own home. The charity's Support Coordinators assist older people who live in a range of accommodation types; privately owned, private rented or social housing homes. If you think you, or an older person you know, might benefit from this service, contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032 or visit www.alone.ie