

Throughout this pandemic, priests and lay chaplains have continued to minister to the sick and the bereaved in extraordinary circumstances. In the Archdiocese of Dublin, 36 and 40 lay chaplains provide this essential service across a wide range of healthcare facilities.

#### Day of Prayer for Vocations

This Sunday is Vocation's Sunday - What is a vocation? The word vocation comes from the Latin word 'vocare'-meaning to call. A vocation then is a calling to a special way of living your life. We all have a vocation. By virtue of our baptism we are all called to place our trust in God and to use our gifts to build up His Kingdom

It is amazing what changes can take place in our lives when we realise that we are precious, loved and unique, that we are 'called'. It is amazing what we can achieve when we realise that no matter what our limitations are we are all gifted and have so much to offer.

Sometimes we carry attitudes like; Why does God need me? Why doesn't he get someone else? Or someone else is better than me. What would the world be like if Peter or Paul had said that? Where would we be without Francis of Assisi or Catherine of Sienna? What if Patrick ignored the call of the Irish and refused to return. What is Gandhi or Nelson Mandela surrendered their struggle. What if Bernadette of Lourdes gave up on 'the Lady'? What if Our Lady said 'No!' to the angel Gabriel? We know how these and other heroic men and women answered Christ. What we do not know is how those who are being called to serve today will respond. Let us pray that their answer will be a generous 'Yes'

Today we celebrate the unique gifts that God has bestowed on us and we ask the Lord to give us the strength and wisdom we need to use these gifts wisely.

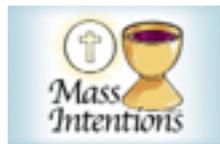
*Fr. Michael Carey*

#### Mass Intentions this Sunday

**Sat 6.30pm** Niamh Sheridan

**Sun 8.30am** Imelda McNeill

**Sun 11.15am** Gwen Glynn



#### Mass intentions for Next Week

**Mon** 10.00am Canonisation of Edel Quinn

**Tues** 10.00am Aidan Scully

**Wed** 10.00am Ann Yorke

**Fri** 10.00am Theresa Brock

**Sat** 6.30pm Mini Quinlan

**Sun** 8.30am Henry, Kitty & Molly Dawson

**Sun** 11.15am Michael & Mary Moroney

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

Fr. John Collins continues to include the requested intentions for Sunday 10:00AM Mass in Drynam in his own Mass each Sunday. We remember the children from Holywell Educate Together NS who were due to have their First Holy Communion on the 2nd May and also those who were due for Confirmation on the 25th April. We look forward to celebrating their special days at a future date.



**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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)**

**Facebook: St. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



Fourth Sunday of Easter

**We are in a difficult situation and one that will not see its end for some time –**

**Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.**

*“The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth”*

Newsletter Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020



In last week's newsletter I shared the experience of hospital chaplain Fr John Kelly – this week I will share the experience of another hospital chaplain.

**Shauna Sweeny, Chaplain, Tallaght University Hospital.**

“This new strange way of life in the hospital is something that every healthcare professional is learning to adjust to. To see our patients having to go through this unthinkable ordeal is heart-breaking. Patients have not seen their family in weeks and feel isolated and lonely. Families are at home waiting to hear from the hospital and feel helpless. Staff are dealing with extremely stressful situations that change every day.

As a chaplain in such an unusual time, it is my role to try and support patients and staff in the hospital and to make space for them to share their fears. It is extremely harrowing to see what patients and families are going through with this pandemic. Typically families would be with their loved ones morning, noon and night but that cannot be the case now.

A young man with a young family was dying yesterday. His wife and brother came in to say their last goodbyes to him. I facilitated the visit with them, they had 15 minutes to see him and say goodbye as they would never see him again. They were surrounded by people with masks, goggles, hair nets, and no faces to see. This alone put so much fear with them and they too were instructed to wear the full PPE. It is utterly heart-breaking. The reality of the current situation feels inhumane and not what we as carers are used to.

Staff and volunteers in the hospital have crocheted pairs of love hearts that fit in the palm of the hand - a set. When I met with the wife and brother of this patient, I gave them one love heart to put into his hand, knowing that he would have something of theirs and I gave them the matching heart, to always have to show their son and to know that he was not alone.

Patients are our priority and an initiative that the hospital set up is that every ward has access iPads that patients if well enough can facetime their families. If patients are too unwell the Chaplain calls the family after visiting and lets the family know how their loved one is doing. It gives the chaplain an opportunity to connect in with the family and see how they are doing as well.” (Shauna Sweeny)

## 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*



### 1st Holy Communions

This is the season for the celebration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communions which are not happening this year. Last Saturday on 25<sup>th</sup> April the boys and girls from Scoil an Duinnigh were due to celebrate this sacrament and next Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS were due to celebrate. My thoughts and prayers are with the children and their families. To mark the day next week maybe the boys' parents could give their sons a special treat.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion will be rescheduled hopefully in the autumn of 2020.

### Mass in Swords/Drynam

**ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED** until further notice.

**BUT** I have installed a web camera and will be saying a daily Mass at 5.00pm if you care to tune in. A lot of parishes including Brackenstown have Mass at 10.00am. River Valley has Mass at 7.00pm and therefore I have rightly or wrongly chosen 5.00pm. As I have been writing in the past few newsletters, for those who cannot attend Mass and receive Holy Communion there is a prayer below which may be said. A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**"And all will be well and all manner of things shall be well" – Julian of Norwich**

**In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass**

**Sunday Mass** – I will celebrate Mass via the webcam on Saturday Evenings at 7.00pm (The Vigil for Sunday) and on Sunday at 5.00pm I will celebrate the Evening Prayer of the Church

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You **Amen**



**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People** ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**. Hours may be extended to meet the demand

### Fourth Sunday of Easter – Day of Prayer for Vocations

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians? We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics: we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI). John's Gospel makes this clear with its great I Am sentences, one of which we hear today: "I am the gate." Naturally, we think the gate to what? The gate to life to the full. The risk today is to set our expectations low, to be happy with less. But the Gospel calls not to be half alive, but to be fully alive. Let us enter by the gate himself, because the gate to life is always open.

**Prayer –**

Often, loving Lord, we find ourselves astray and defenceless. Let us recognise your voice, calling us one by one as you call us to follow you. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic

**O** Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. **Amen.**

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

### Parish Finances

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the First Collection, Share and Easter dues through the Parish website. This can be done by clicking on Donate on home page of the website [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)  
If you would like to contribute via the family offering you may consider donating by standing order, please contact the Parish Office by email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) and a form will be sent to you.

**Thank you for your ongoing support**

- The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com).
- A digital copy of **Sunday's missalette**, which includes the readings is now available on the Parish website (home page) [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)

