

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone. Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

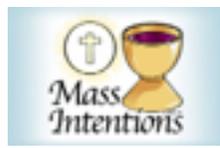
Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Mimi Quinlan
Sun 8.30am Henry, Kitty & Molly Dawson
Sun 11.15am Michael & Mary Moroney



At our Mass this weekend we also remember: Deceased members of McLoughney family and Deceased members of Reilly Family

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Dec members of McLoughney Family	Sat 6.30pm James McGuirk
Mon 10.00am Richard Forbes	Sun 8.30pm Ellen Preston & Kathleen O'Connor
Tues 8.00am Austin Tyrell	Sun 11.15am Margaret Prendergast
Tue 10.00am Dec members of Reilly Family	
Fri 10.00am Joan McGee	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

To all our Drynam parishioners, we really miss you and look forward to the day that we can return to our little church of Our Lady of the Visitation. In the meantime, we enjoy the Vigil Mass from St. Colmcilles each Saturday evening via Webcam.



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)
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Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary

“O sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders, alleluia”



Newsletter Sunday 10th May 2020

The Pope has issued a letter to the faithful which I am attaching below:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady (*I at attaching one of them*) that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020 Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

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

Next Saturday 16th May the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS 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 1st 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](tel:0818222024). Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jesus is our Way, our Truth and our Life. As the Gospel says, to have eternal life is to believe in him whom God has sent (Jn 5:24; 17:3). This is a reality for us now and it guides our life, in matters great and small. At the core of this reality is trust, that is, the capacity to entrust all that we have and are to the living God and to his Son, raised from the dead. It is not an accident that the verb “I believe” occurs no fewer than ninety-eight times in the Fourth Gospel.

Prayer - Lord God, you gave us Jesus, the Word made flesh as Mediator, and he has spoken your words to us and called us to follow him. He is the way that leads us to you, the truth that sets us free, the life that fills us with gladness. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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 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 and a form will be sent to you. *Thank you for your ongoing support*



Going home

Going to heaven!
I don't know when, pray do not ask me how.
Going to heaven!
How dim it sounds!
And yet it will be done as sure as flocks go home at night unto the shepherd's arm.
If you should get there first, save just a little place for me close to the two I lost.
The smallest 'robe' will fit me, and just a bit of 'crown';
for you know we do not mind our dress when we are going home. *(Emily Dickinson)*

Brackenstown Bible Study group invite you to join us in reading St Luke's Gospel. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the study will be home based. Each Monday a short five minute video will be emailed to you, this gives an overview of the reading for that week. We will start on Monday 25th May and the video for that week will cover chapters 1 & 2 of Luke. There will be an optional Zoom, on-line group discussion/questions and answers facility available on each Monday night. There is no charge to join in so why not give it a go? For more details please email Paddy at pobyrne50@gmail.com

- The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email 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