

I like to think, then, of Saint Joseph, the protector of Jesus and of the Church, as the protector of vocations. In fact, from his willingness to serve comes his concern to. The Gospel tells us that “Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night” (Mt 2:14), thus revealing his prompt concern for the good of his family. He wasted no time fretting over things he could not control, in order to give full attention to those entrusted to his care. Such thoughtful concern is the sign of a true vocation, the testimony of a life touched by the love of God. What a beautiful example of Christian life we give when we refuse to pursue our ambitions or indulge in our illusions, but instead care for what the Lord has entrusted to us through the Church! God then pours out his Spirit and creativity upon us; he works wonders in us, as he did in Joseph.

Together with God’s call, which makes our greatest dreams come true, and our response, which is made up of generous service and attentive care, there is a third characteristic of Saint Joseph’s daily life and our Christian vocation, namely fidelity. Joseph is the “righteous man” (Mt 1:19) who daily perseveres in quietly serving God and his plans. At a particularly difficult moment in his life, he thoughtfully considered what to do (cf. v. 20). He did not let himself be hastily pressured. He did not yield to the temptation to act rashly, simply following his instincts or living for the moment. Instead, he pondered things patiently. He knew that success in life is built on constant fidelity to important decisions. This was reflected in his perseverance in plying the trade of a humble carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), a quiet perseverance that made no news in his own time, yet has inspired the daily lives of countless fathers, labourers and Christians ever since. For a vocation – like life itself – matures only through daily fidelity.

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 Niamh Sheridan

Sun 8.30am Allie Dolan

Sun 8.30am Josie Ryan

Patrick (Patsy) Fagan (MM)



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Mass for Canonisation of Edel Quinn

Tues 10.00am Harry Murtagh

Tues 10.00am Parish Sisters

Tues 10.00am Mabel O’Leary

Wed 10.00am Lawrence Galvin

Thurs 10.00am Bill Foley

Thurs 10.00am Gertie Heery

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

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Sat 6.30pm Michael Reilly

Sun 8.30am Cora Mullarkey

Sun 11.15am Paddy Mahon

Vincent Harford (MM)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

The Church will be open from 12pm - 1.30pm 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. Colmcille'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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service.... a rule for daily life.

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

Newsletter Sunday 2nd May 2021

This week’s newsletter concludes Pope Francis’ homily for Vocations Sunday 2021, which is a beautiful commentary on St. Joseph

A second word marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation: service. The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself. The holy people of God invoke him as the most chaste spouse, based on his ability to love unreservedly. By freeing love from all possessiveness, he became open to an even more fruitful service. His loving care has spanned generations; his attentive guardianship has made him patron of the Church.

As one who knew how to embody the meaning of self-giving in life, Joseph is also the patron of a happy death. His service and sacrifices were only possible, however, because they were sustained by a greater love: “Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration” (*ibid.*, 7).

For Saint Joseph, service – as a concrete expression of the gift of self – did not remain simply a high ideal, but became a rule for daily life. He strove to find and prepare a place where Jesus could be born; he did his utmost to protect him from Herod’s wrath by arranging a hasty journey into Egypt; he immediately returned to Jerusalem when Jesus was lost; he supported his family by his work, even in a foreign land. In short, he adapted to different circumstances with the attitude of those who do not grow discouraged when life does not turn out as they wished; he showed the willingness typical of those who live to serve. In this way, Joseph welcomed life’s frequent and often unexpected journeys: from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, then to Egypt and again to Nazareth, and every year to Jerusalem. Each time he was willing to face new circumstances without complaining, ever ready to give a hand to help resolve situations. We could say that this was the outstretched hand of our heavenly Father reaching out to his Son on earth. Joseph cannot fail to be a model for all vocations, called to be the ever-active hands of the Father, outstretched to his children.

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)*



EASTER - Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

Continues this week on **Tuesday and Thursday Evening at 7.00pm**

This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam and should last about 30 minutes

The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, www.swords-parish.com

Easter Dues

A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Easter Dues envelopes. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. *If you have not made a return and would like to there are dues envelopes available at the back of the Church*

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
- 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

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for February will take place **NEXT weekend, Sunday 9TH May.**



Saint's in the Church's Calendar

SS Philip and James, Apostles – Monday 3rd May. St Philip asks to see and having seen, he tells the Good News to others. He was born at Bethsaida. Formerly a disciple of John the Baptist, he became a follower of Christ. **St James**, the son Alphaeus and a cousin of the Lord, ruled the Church of Jerusalem, wrote an Epistle, and led a life of penance. He converted many of the people of Jerusalem to the faith and was martyred in the year 62

Bethany Bereavement Support Group are offering telephone support, please contact Kay 086 2209297 from Sunday 2nd May to Saturday 8th May. More details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie> It's good to talk. Do not grieve alone or unaided.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted".

5th Sunday of Easter

Today's gospel offers us an image of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The word literally means one who is learning, a good attitude to carry throughout life. The way one learns from another is by observing what they do, by trying to capture some of the spirit which animates them, in short, by being with them. And this is precisely what the image of the vine and the branches intends to convey, namely, that it is by keeping company with the Lord, who is forever present in the Church, that we develop and grow as followers of his. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*).

COVID-19 SUPPORT LINE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

ALONE manage a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to COVID-19. Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary. The support line is open seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**.

Scripture Note –5th Sunday of Easter

The First Reading tells how, three years after his conversion, Paul went up to Jerusalem. In spite of being introduced by Barnabas, such was the hostility he encountered that he had to be smuggled out of the city. The fact that Paul took all these trials in his stride shows the depth of his faith in Jesus.

In the Gospel we have the lovely image of the vine and the branches. Here Jesus stresses the unity that exists between him and his disciples. Vine and branches need each other. The vine cannot bear fruit without the branches. And the branches can have no life if separated from the vine. The branches need to be pruned (by trials) in order to be fruitful. (Paul is a good example).

The Second Reading tells us what we have to do in order to be at rights with God. We have to believe in his Son, Jesus, and love one another as he told us. Active charity is what distinguishes true Christians from those who are such in name only. (This is what makes them fruitful branches of Christ, the true vine). (Source: *Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB*)

Youth Initiatives

YCD Connected – Bringing Young People Together

The Young Church Dublin invite you to join our connected group for Young Adults (20's 30's) We meet online every Wednesday, from 8.00-9.00pm for some time of fellow, reflection on Scripture and prayer together. It provides an opportunity to connect in with other young adults in a community of faith. For more information please email: kirsten.mahon@dublindiocese.ie

Teen Hope Connected

We are starting a new 3 Week Series on Prayer on Wednesdays from 6pm – 7pm. It starts on 21st April and continues April 28th and May 5th followed by a 'Games Night' on Wednesday 12th May. Expect some fun, exploring of faith and life, small group discussions, some top class games, and prayer. To register for this youth group you will need to complete the online parental consent form with your parents by clicking here: <https://forms.gle/2uGwM3jnLM1Mwyeu5>