

Jesus Christ walked the length and breadth of Galilee and Judea. Wherever he went he brought health and wholeness, peace and healing, forgiveness and new life. The power of God and the Spirit of God renewed through him the face of the earth. **This is still our mission and the mission of the Church.** It is a mission today of immense complexity and difficulty.

Deep in the heart of mankind, and enshrined in the structures of our world society, is a selfishness and a greed inherited from the first Adam, the first Eve. We, the fallen and sinful, struggle to secure what we want, regardless of others. We who are blind and deaf to the promptings of God's Spirit have built for ourselves a world that is unjust, a world of hunger, of malnutrition and despair. The poverty of the third world, the unemployment and inequalities of the industrialised West, are the grim face of our rejection of God, of our rebellion against the Spirit of God.

Slowly, painfully, we seek to allow the Spirit of God to renew the face of the earth. The restoration of society can only be achieved by those who are poor in spirit, gentle, compassionate, hungry for justice, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. Only those who are part of the new creation can hope to build a new world, a better society. The kingdom of God is established first in our hearts. Unless that happens our efforts will remain generous and well-intentioned but not the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God fashioned our world. The Spirit of God restored our fallen world in Jesus Christ. It is our mission, through our lives to share the work of Christ and to renew, through the power of the Spirit, the face of the earth. (*Source: To be a pilgrim – Cardinal Basil Hume*)

**Fr. Michael Carey**

#### ***Mass Intentions this Weekend***

**Sat 6.30pm** Liam Gargan

**Sun 8.30am** Paddy Barker

**Sun 11.15am** Christine & Francis Loughran



**At our Masses this weekend we also remember:** Paddy Clancy, Denis Madden

#### ***Mass intentions for next Next Week***

**Mon** 10.00am Holy Souls

**Fri** 10.00am Paddy Gerrard

**Mon** 10.00am Sr Laboire Cuddidhy

**Fri** 10.00am Peggy McLoughlin

**Tues** 10.00am Esther, William & Liam Spencer

**Tues** 10.00am Annie & Ed Collinger

**Sat** 6.30pm Gerry Murphy

**Wed** 10.00am Mary Cuddidhy

**Sun** 8.30am Geraldine Casserly

**Wed** 10.00am Tommy Hanratty

**Sun** 11.15am Paddy Gerrard

**Thurs** 10.00am Grace O'Neill

**Thurs** 10.00am Sheila & Michael Golden

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.30am (Irish Mass)**

We are happy to welcome people back to Sunday Mass in the Church. As before everyone must wear a mask in Church. Seats marked for social distance and hand sanitizer to be used on way in. Our church only holds 37 so sorry in advance if we have to turn someone away.



**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. Colmille'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***

**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Renew the face of the earth**

***"The Lord is the strength of his people"***

**Newsletter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**



There are two significant images from the Bible with profound implications for Catholics today. Both of them are about beginnings. Both of them lead us into the mystery of God and the mystery of His saving love for the universe He created and for mankind made in His image and likeness. One is from the Book of Genesis in the Old Testament, the other from the Gospel of St. Luke in the New Testament. Both tell us much about the reality of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Genesis sets out in a series of images a primitive but vivid account of how the world came into being. Across many centuries the poetry speaks to us today:

***"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and God's spirit hovered over the water" (Gen 1:1)***

In the darkness there is a primeval chaos, the swirling waters and the brooding power of God. The image suggests infinite creativity, perhaps even the fleeting suggestion of a giant bird hatching its young. But we are left with a vision of infinite love drawing out of emptiness the beauty of the world, the glory of the heavens, the form and order of created things. For centuries men and women have been enriched and encouraged by this fundamental image. It has helped them to recognise God as creator, as Father. Even today it helps us to make sense of our experience and of the world around us.

The second image is to be found in St. Luke's account of the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. He had come, after forty days of fasting in the desert, to his home town of Nazareth. On the Sabbath, in the Synagogue, he was handed the scroll of Isaiah to read. The words proclaimed were:

***"The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of freedom" (Is 61:1-2)***

Then he said: "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen". Luke had previously described how John had baptised Jesus in the waters of the Jordan and the Holy Spirit had descended on him like a dove. There are indications here surely of a new creation. The Spirit of God hovers over the water. A new Adam steps from the Jordan and proclaims to the people that a new hope and a new liberation has been given to them. It has been given in particular to the poor, the captive, the blind and the downtrodden.

## 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)*



### First Penance

This week the girls and boys of our Parish Schools will celebrate their First Penance/ Confession. St. Colmcille's GNS will celebrate the Sacrament on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. St. Colmcille's BNS will celebrate the Sacrament on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The paisti from Scoil an Duinninigh will celebrate their First Confession on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June

### End of Year School Masses

We are coming to that time of Year where our Primary Schools are winding down to the summer holidays and that means Graduation Liturgies for the 6<sup>th</sup> classes as they get ready to leave the comfort and joy of their Primary School and move into a very different Secondary School. We know that they will be fine and that the Secondary Schools are well aware of these 'new beginnings' and will settle the new 'First Years' very quickly. Any way we begin our Graduation Masses this week, always mindful these days of Covid restrictions. This year it will involve just the pupils themselves. Due to social distancing requirements etc. their parents cannot attend but the Mass can be viewed on the Parish webcam

*The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com)*

### A Song to St. Colmcille

Morgan Crowley composed a lovely hymn to St. Colmcille to mark the special occasion which was first aired last Wednesday – his Feast Day. Helen sang it beautifully. The hymn can be listened to on the Parish Website

### Confessions

Next Saturday June 26<sup>th</sup> I will be available for the Sacrament of Confession from **11.00am until 11.30am** and from **4.00pm until 4.30pm**

*I will not be in the confessional box but sitting in the Sanctuary behind a clear screen*

### EASTER - Liturgy/Prayer Service

I will continue this for the month of JUNE on **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](http://www.swords-parish.com)

### Saint's in the Church's Calendar

**Nativity of John the Baptist – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June** we rejoice at the coming of St. John the Baptist, a man of self-denial, integrity of life and purpose, and an uncompromising prophetic voice. John means 'The Lord has shown favour.' This feast relates to the summer solstice, when the days begin to grow shorter, recalling John's words, 'He must increase, but I must decrease'. He was the last and the greatest of the prophets and he prepared for the coming of Christ.

### Parish pastoral Council

We held a meeting last Monday, the first in a long time and it was lovely to gather as a Council. Council members are involved in Ministry and Volunteering in our Parish so I was able to meet members on an ad-hoc basis when I needed advice and clarification. Our main topic for discussion was a questionnaire sent out by the 'Building Hope-Taskforce' set up by the Archbishop as he plans for the Diocese for the next 10 years. That questionnaire was completed and will be returned by the deadline of June 25<sup>th</sup>. Two other matters were also discussed

### Cemetery Sunday

In light of the ongoing pandemic and restrictions on social gatherings including outdoor gatherings for a second year in a row the Blessing of the Graves ceremony at 4pm Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June **is cancelled**. What I will do is pray the Prayer for 'The Blessing of the Cemetery' at all weekend Masses of Sat/Sun 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> June and I will bless/sprinkle with holy water the graveyard during the week beginning Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June

### Cancellation of 8am Mass

For over a year now, since St. Patrick's day 2020 there has been no 8am Mass, cancelled initially due to the Covid19 pandemic.

As services/liturgies have resumed the 8am Mass has not.

I asked that the that PPC formally accept the cancellation of the 8am Mass for the following reasons

- The Sanitising regime after Mass will probably continue for a long time – it would be very difficult to get volunteers to do this
- The Parish would find it hard to get volunteer Sacristans to open Monday to Friday. They accepted my proposal for which I thank them.

I know that this will be a disappointment to some but I hope you understand. I personally think that it is wonderful to have our 10am Mass and the full weekend schedule back, due entirely to the wonderful support of yourselves and the FANTASTIC stewards and volunteers

### RECENTLY DECEASED

*Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:*

John Hanratty

Glasmore Park

### 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The gist of today's Gospel is found in the last sentence of the parable, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.' Mark answers this question in his Gospel by gradually revealing the "messianic secret." Mark is telling us that Jesus as the Messiah of suffering and death will not take away the pain, the struggle, the hardship, the suffering – all the storms of life. This sentiment is echoed by St Paul in the Second Reading: that we do not look upon Jesus as a wonderworker, but rather as the crucified one who offered himself in love; this great love of Jesus is what impels us to live by his values. For Paul, as for Mark, our salvation is not a glorious salvation but one that is fully human, carried out amidst the storms of life (Source: St. Paul's Missal).