

The community of believers in Jesus Christ must be one where we draw strength and witness to the strength that comes from the presence of Jesus in our midst. Jesus is present not as some distant figure who does not care and not in simplistic presence that allows us to run away from the harshness of reality into the false securities and a craving for a past that may never have existed.

Faith must be adult faith. Faith must enrich the search for our future by a view of a God who cares and who inspires us to use our earthly talents to ponder the deeper questions and witness by the way we live to the care of God. Faith and science and human progress belong together. Faith reminds us that evil can only be overcome by the good; self-centredness, passive lack of interest and divisiveness can only be overcome by love that is concrete.

In the months and years to come we will have to face and live with the challenges that the pandemic has brought and will leave us with. People will be insecure. Jobs will be lost at all levels in society. Precariousness will affect so many of the things that in the past gave us a sense of security.

In that difficult scenario, the Church of Jesus Christ must find ways of witnessing to the fact that society needs care and love. We must show our awareness that every human life must be valued not through words and polemics but being alongside those who feel that their personal value is shunned and may even be tempted by despair and emptiness.

“It is I” says the Lord as he reveals to us who God is, that God who cares and reaches out, and who challenges us to be like him in the way we live and construct our future. People will find God today only when we, his believers, reflect who God is: the one who cares, protects and challenges us to show what love means for us today”.
(Archbishop Diarmuid Martin 9th August 2020)

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sun 8.30am Paul Murphy & Gerry Murphy

Sun 11.15am Ellen Donovan
Sean Colclough (1st)
Cora Duffy



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Agnes Donovan
Kathleen Larmon & Christopher Larmon

Tues 10.00am Angela Campion
Vera Donohoe

Wed 10.00am Eileen Crosbie
Paddy Barker

Thurs 10.00am Kitty O'Brien

Fri 10.00am Bridie Bannon

Sun 8.30am Stephen Farrell

Sun 11.15am Nick Bates
Thomas Corbett (1st An)

Willie Abbott (MM)
Ellen, Mary & Thomas McGrane
& Mary & James Stafford

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am

We look forward to next Saturday 29th August when 23 children from Holywell ETNS will make their First Holy Communion in Drynam church. Two ceremonies at 11:00AM and 1PM will take place to ensure Social Distancing. A big thank you to all who have worked to make this happen.



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: o: stolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

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



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

We live at a time when our trust in many things is being put to the test.

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long”

Newsletter Sunday 23rd August 2020



The archbishop delivered a homily a fortnight ago which is very apt to the times we are living in. I have printed the most of it below:

“Jesus says to Peter “Do not be afraid. Have courage “it is I”. “It is I” recalls the name with which God had revealed himself to Moses. Jesus now reveals that God is the One who conquers fear and who reaches out to hold us in safety.

“Do not be afraid” is a phrase that Jesus uses on many occasions. We think in particular of how he used that phrase as he greeted the women after the Resurrection and when he appeared to the gathered disciples after the resurrection. Jesus resurrection is the sign of the victory over fear, a victory of love over death, the cause of peace. Jesus rebukes Peter and the other disciples because they had allowed fear to annihilate their faith. They had given in to fear of the storm. They had failed to recognise that it is precisely in moments of crisis that Jesus is the one who is there – reaching out to us, to give us courage, strength and hope.

In every generation, faith encounters the challenge of fear and timidity. Believers become distracted by the events, the challenges and tragedies of the day and fail to witness to the one way of overcoming these tragedies: having faith in God and recognising as Jesus did in his life that love can conquer. The challenge for faith in every generation is not to allow fear and self-centredness to take over our lives but to be convinced of the power of God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ.

We live at a time when our trust in many things is being put to the test. Most of us have never experienced or even thought we might experience a global pandemic. Probably we had simply put such a catastrophic possibility out of our imagination. We felt that the progress of modern science and culture would quickly be able to respond to any global health crisis by rapidly producing a cure or a vaccine that would resolve the question and allow us to continue in the way we lived. .

Now we realise that a pandemic can emerge and spread and indeed reappear. We also have realised that in public health terms, medicine, cures and vaccines, actions from somewhere in society cannot alone resolve our problems. We have learned that responsible human behaviour is just as important as sophisticated medicine.

Fear will only be overcome by something greater than progress.

In the long term, it is love that opens us up to a safe future. Our Church is challenged by the contemporary cultural climate. The post-pandemic Church will be very different to what we have experienced in the past. This is not something that is the fruit of the pandemic alone. Indeed in many ways we have responded well to the pandemic. It should have been obvious to us for some time that in today’s culture more and more of our brothers and sisters find it difficult to find God and more and more find it difficult to find God through our Church.

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*



Sacrament of Confirmation

As I write this on Wednesday, everything about the celebration Sacrament of Confirmation for the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS is going very well. I congratulate all the girls and their families. I hope they had a lovely family celebration afterwards. The liturgy of Confirmation was simple and prayerful – I hope that was the experience of those who attended.

I want to thank Colette and Jeanette for the administration and organisation of each day which went very well. I thank Sr. Margaret who assisted each day during the Confirmation Mass.

On behalf of the Parish I thank the school for their excellent preparation of the girls through 6th class and for the 6th class teachers, Ms. Brona Leddy and Ms Natalie Farrington and Principal Ms. Karen Burke-Logue

Finally I thank the flower ladies, Barbara; Marie and Martha for the beautiful flower display for the Sacrament and to the Church of the Visitation, Drynam for sending over their flower displays from their celebration of the Sacrament last week.

Confessions

I will hear confessions next Saturday 29th August from 10.00am to 11.00am (*There are Baptisms at 12 noon*). In order to be Covid compliant I will sit behind a clear Perspex screen in the Sanctuary area. As long as we have these restrictions with us, I plan to hear Confessions on the last Saturday of every month.

Schools re-opening

Our Parish Schools re-open this Friday 28th August. I know that the Principals (Ms. Brangan; Ms. Burke-Logue and Ms. Ni Laighin) have been working very hard towards this and I pray that everything goes well

FACE-MASKS

The WEARING OF FACE MASKS IN CHURCH'S IS NOW MANDATORY

Can I ask that everybody at Mass please wear a face-mask – ***It is now legally necessary to do so.*** We can all sing quietly through them and speak through them so really it should not be an issue.

Stewards

- I thank the stewards in both our churches, who are doing a fantastic job. The initial request was for the months of July and August but this is now stretching out to September and beyond. I am asking is that if you do a particular day that you might carry on for the month of September.
- If you are not a steward you might consider volunteering for one Mass/one Day per week.
- The Sunday 11.15 Mass is in need of extra volunteers if you can help?
- As I have written in the newsletter before the Stewards have proven to be caring and considerate in exercising their ministry. We could have no Mass without them!

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 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 seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024. Mass Schedule for July and August

The Mass Schedule for July and August in St. Colmcille's will be as follows:

Monday to Friday – 10.00am only

Sunday – 8.30am and 11.15am

The Sunday Obligation

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. You may fulfil your obligation by attending Mass on any day of the week.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Ann McGuire

Seatown Terrace



1st and 2nd Collections

At every Mass, weekday and weekend there will be collection boxes situated around the Church. If you cannot make the Sunday Mass, but are able to go to the weekday Mass, you can make your weekly contribution during the weekday Mass.
Thank You

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group is available to parishioners providing telephone support during the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer our sympathy to anyone bereaved during these very difficult months. If you would like to talk to a Bethany member please phone **Kay 086 2209297 from 23rd August - 22th August** If there is no reply please leave your first name and phone number. Or you can email the parish office stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to Bethany Group. This is a free and confidential service.