

But more importantly than that – our birth dates are important to God and the hand of God is at work in our lives. Jesus himself said, “I tell you, of all the children born to women, there is no one greater than John (The Baptist), YET THE LEAST IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS GREATER THAN HE IS” (Lk.7:38)

*Fr. Michael Carey*

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**Sat 6.30pm** Tommy Hanratty

**Sun 8.30am** Paddy Barker

**Sun 11.15am** Dan & Eva Geoghegan  
Malachy Turley (MM)  
Sean Byrne (MM)



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon 10.00am** Annie & Edward Coppinger

**Tues 10.00am** Anthony Reilly

**Sat 6.30pm** Liam Gargan

**Sun 8.30am** Barbara Rooney

**Sun 11.15am** Dec members of  
Geraghty & McGreevey families

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

The Pastoral Team is working to develop our Return to Mass plan for the church in Drynam. First Mass will be First Friday 3rd July at 9:20AM. We hope to have Sunday Mass with limited numbers on 5th July at 10:00AM.



**RECENTLY DECEASED**

*Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:*  
Patricia Kelly                      Forest Fields Cottages



**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 Brid - 086 6006397 after 6pm from Monday 22nd June. If there is no reply please leave your first name and phone number. Or you can email the parish office [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) and your message will be forwarded to Bethany Group. This is a free and confidential service.

**The Blessing of the Graves**

The Annual Mass with the blessing of Graves due to be held on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> **is cancelled** due to the Covid19 pandemic. I myself will bless the Cemetery in the week leading up to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**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. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



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

**What will this child turn out to be?**

*“The Lord is the strength of his people”*

Newsletter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020



This coming Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June the Church celebrates the birthday (the nativity) of John the Baptist. He was the last and the greatest of the prophets and he prepared for the coming of Christ.

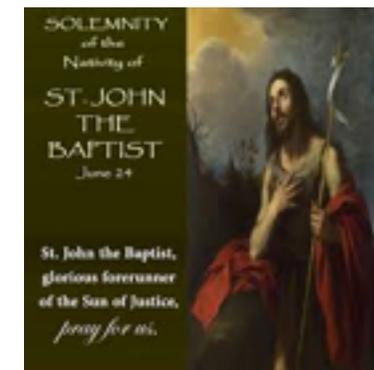
John the Baptist, Our Lady and the Lord himself are the only three birthdays that are celebrated with a solemn feast. We have it on June 24<sup>th</sup>, six months before celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Jesus’ birth at Christmas coincides more or less with the winter solstice. Just as the light of the sun begins to make a comeback after darkness has reached its peak, we celebrate the birth of the light of the world. The birthday of John the Baptist, in contrast, is recalled just after the summer solstice. This too is symbolic, for as the light of the sun begins to decrease after reaching its peak, we celebrate the birth of the one who said of Jesus, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

This question was asked by the neighbours and relations: “What will this child turn out to be?” could be asked of any of us. It is a question that could be asked about any of us at any stage of our lives, “What will we turn out to be?”

Or to put the question in terms of religious faith, “What does God want us to be?” “Is there a divine purpose for our lives?” The purpose of John’s life and God’s purposes for all of us have much in common. Our Maker wants all of us to do what John did, to point out the Saviour, to make way for Jesus, to lead others to him by what we say and do.

As the Baptist pointed the right way for his people, each of us in quiet ways can do for people in our time. We can help tell our neighbours about the graciousness and the favour of God. The name John means *God is gracious* or *God shows favour*. We too have a significant name, for being Christians implies that we sharing in the mission of Jesus. It means that we are to be like other Christ's to the world. May we be blessed with the grace of God, to fulfil our mission as faithfully as John did his.

The simple message I’d like to leave with you with this newsletter is that all our birthdays are important, as indeed are those of our loved ones, and we should celebrate them. If we are on our own, then we should give ourselves a little treat on our birthdays.



## 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*



### YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU

As you are by now well aware Churches can celebrate public Mass again from Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> – PROVIDED – we have all 'our i's dotted and t's crossed'.

To that end a 'Covid Committee' met last Wednesday to discuss re-opening in detail.  
This Committee is a sub-committee of the PPC.

You will see signage going up inside and outside the Church this coming week. **BUT**, but, but where I and the PPC really need your help is with volunteers for stewarding and cleansing. This hopefully will just apply for the months of July and August.

At 2 metre social distancing St. Colmcille's can only accommodate 42 people. That is a really low number.

The Mass Schedule for July and August will be as follows:

Monday to Friday – 10.00am only  
Sunday – 8.30am and 11.15am

I am not going to hold a Saturday Vigil. My reason being is that these two months are unforeseeable and also the holiday months. I am confident of volunteers coming forward but I don't want to overburden you. Also in July I hope to start Baptisms again on Saturday's and will sanitising required after every Liturgy, then one on Saturday is enough.

Myself and Pat Lynch (Chairperson of the PPC) have emailed all Parish Volunteers and Ministry Team members about the upcoming re-opening of St. Colmcille's and the need for cleaners and stewards. We did a 'blanket' email.

If you are fearful, or you or a loved one are living with an underlying condition then please ignore the email and do not feel obliged to respond.

With over 100 Ministry Team members and Volunteers in the Parish I am confident that enough will 'come forward' so to speak. Please pray for our parish that we will have a successful re-opening.

### **Church of Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam**

They have their own 'Covid Committee' and planning is going very well.



### **The Church is open**

St. Colmcille's is open every day for private prayer from 10.30am until 4.30pm.  
Please use the hand sanitisers provided and observe social distancing

### **Thank You**

Many parishioners have already used the 'Donate' button and some have sent Easter Dues and 1<sup>st</sup> Collection offerings via the envelope under the door system – I sincerely thank you for your generosity. Thank you also to all who have used the 'new' 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collection envelopes.

### **Mass in Swords/Drynam**

**ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED** until Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**“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**

### **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*



### **The Priory Institute 2020 Online Summer School**

This summer we are offering a two-week online summer school on 'Theology, Spirituality and Religious Experience'. The course consists of 10 one-hour online lectures by Fr Pat Collins C.M. given over two weeks and is very flexible as it is delivered entirely online and is offered twice on 13th July and 10th August. Contact [enquiries@priorinstitute.com](mailto:enquiries@priorinstitute.com) / [priorinstitute.com](http://priorinstitute.com) 01 4048124. Cost €80