

His Way of the Cross has brought hope and the possibility of new life into the dark places of our lives. Journeying with Jesus Christ allows us to become aware of where God is walking with us in our lives, and where we are called to be with others on their journey. As you pray, be aware of where you have experienced the different stations in your life. Think also of your loved ones, your friends, your neighbours and your community as a whole; include them in your prayer, as you recall those who are experiencing something of Jesus Christ's journey at this time.

Look beyond your part of the world and be mindful that you share the human journey with people all over the world. Be mindful of the families from this year's Lenten campaign, in Kenya and Honduras, who are facing poverty, injustice and fear. Jesus walked the Way of the Cross for all humanity – now we walk in solidarity with all people.

For the first time the Holy Week ceremonies will not take place publicly in our Church. Instead the Passion of Jesus will take place in the lives of people in our Parish.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Cindy Foran(An)

Sun 8.30am Elizabeth McKittrick(An)

Sun 11.15am Dr Frank McCarthy(An)



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Gertrude Trayner

Mon 10.00am Joseph Coleman

Tues 8.00am David McDonnell

Tues 10.00am Patrick Donovan

Wed 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor

Wed 10.00am Michael & Mary Vesey

Easter Sunday: Intentions of Parishioners

Church of the Visitation Drynam – The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

In line with other notices from the parish relating to Covid-19, Mass will not be celebrated in the church in Drynam. To access Mass on line please visit one of these websites: <https://www.swords-parish.com> (new webcam installed) <https://www.churchservices.tv/> or <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>



Parish Finances

At this time, we must still try to maintain our Churches so we would ask that parishioners who contribute via the family planned giving envelopes to please drop them into the candle shrine safes in the church. Also, this might be a time to consider donating by Direct Debit. Please contact the Parish Office by email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

There is also an on-line payment facility for the Common Fund and Share collections on the front page of the diocesan website. Click on "Donate".

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 Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

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



Passion (Palm) Sunday

HOLY WEEK

“Hold fast to love and justice (Hosea. 12:6)” –

Trocaire Scripture ref for Lent 2020

Newsletter Sunday 5th April 2019



Last Advent a man spoke of being at Mass and the priest asking them to pick a card from a box. The card contained the name of characters associated with the Christmas story. The man discovered that he had pulled the card with the word “DONKEY” written on it and wondered if this were a sign!

It's strange that the donkey features at both ends of the life of Jesus – the Christmas donkey taking Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and most likely further along their road. Today, bringing Jesus into Jerusalem. Consistent presence and travelling companion. Chances are it's no accident the donkey is found in both stories.

The purpose of the Advent exercise was that people might reflect on the character they had chosen and journey through the days to Christmas, wondering how their character felt and how he, she or it, prepared to take a unique place in the story of salvation.

Maybe today, we could focus on some of the characters in the Gospel passage we have just heard. Given the choice who would you want to be? Judas? Peter? Simon of Cyrene? Pilate? The servant girl? One of the jeering crowd? The soldier at the foot of the cross? The part of Jesus is taken – there is truly only one that can fulfil that role.

The reality is we have a part and we can all too easily be one of the less than savoury characters in this week's drama. Judas, who for a handful of coins betrayed Jesus. The one who gets lost, literally lost, in a mob and shouts for an innocent man's crucifixion. We might be Peter in denial of ever knowing Jesus. Maybe Pilate who thought that washing his hands was enough as he condemned an innocent man. Maybe we'd prefer to be Simon who at least could say he shared the weight of the cross or the soldier who came to recognise Jesus with the words: “In truth, this man was a son of God”.

The reality of this Palm Sunday is we must make a choice. Stand with and for justice wherever it is trampled upon or wash our hands and yell with a thoughtless crowd. (Source: Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2020).

Praying the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

We pray this familiar prayer to be with Jesus Christ, who walked this journey carrying the cross, the instrument of his death, out of love and commitment to us. We pray it also because we wish to become close to Jesus, who loves each of us so deeply. We walk this journey to get a glimpse at the heart and mind of Jesus Christ, who is alive today and experiencing the journey of the cross wherever our sisters and brothers are suffering throughout the world. We give thanks as we walk this journey.

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*



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

It is a moving experience each year on Palm Sunday as we go up the mountain with Jesus, towards the Temple, accompanying him on his ascent. But what we are really doing when we join this procession as part of the throng which went up with Jesus to Jerusalem and hailed him as King of Israel? Does it have anything to do with the reality of our life and our world? To answer this, we must first be clear about what Jesus himself wished to do and actually did. He was journeying towards the Temple in the Holy City, towards that place which for Israel ensured in a particular way God's closeness to his people. The ultimate goal of his pilgrimage was the heights of God himself; to those heights he wanted to lift every human being. Our procession today is meant, then, to be an image of something deeper, to reflect the fact that, together with Jesus, we are setting out on pilgrimage along the high road that leads to the living God. *Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

Mass will be celebrated privately on Saturday evening – the Vigil during which palm crosses will be blessed. These will be available when the Church re-opens

Mass in Swords/Drynam

ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED until further notice. Myself and Canon Pat have stopped celebrating Mass as the Canon has to self - isolate.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently
Mary Catherine O'Brien Rathbeale Road



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).

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 STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I am listing below the Stations of the Cross so you can pray them at home. After each station you can reflect on something that touches you and then alternate with the 'Our Father', 'Hail Mary', and 'Glory be'. For the 'honours' course you can find the Scripture reference in your Bible!! After announcing each station, the following prayer is said:

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.*

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death (*Mark 14:61-64*)

SECOND STATION

Jesus carries His Cross (*John 19:14-17*)

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time (*John 15:18-20*)

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his afflicted mother (*John 19:25-27*)

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross (*Mt. 15:20-22*)

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (*Mt.25:37-40*)

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time (*Is. 53:4-6*)

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (*Luke 23:27-28*)

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls a third time (*Ps. 118:25-28*)

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of His clothes (*Mt. 27:34-35*)

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross (*Luke 23:33-35; John 19:18*)

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross (*Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30b*)

THIRTEENTH STATION

The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross (*John 19:33-34,38a*)

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb (*Mt. 27:59-60*).