

All of us felt the worry and fear experienced by those workers and volunteers who daily exposed themselves to risk in order to ensure that essential services were provided, and to accompany and care for the excluded and the vulnerable who were suffering even more from the effects of the pandemic. We witnessed the difficulties and discomforts of the lockdown: loneliness and isolation, especially among the elderly; anxiety, anguish and a sense of helplessness at the possibility of losing jobs and homes; violence and breakdown in relationships. The age-old fear of being infected once more reared its head. We shared the anguish and concern of entire families uncertain as to whether there would be food on the table in weeks to come.

We also experienced our own vulnerability and helplessness. Just as the kiln tests the potter's vases, so were we put to the test (cf. Sir 27:5). Distraught, we felt all the more the precariousness of our own lives and our apostolic efforts. The unpredictability of the situation heightened the difficulty we feel in facing the unknown which we cannot control or direct and, like everyone else, we felt confused, fearful and defenceless. At the same time, we also experienced that healthy and necessary courage that refuses to yield in the face of injustice and reminds us that we were created for Life. Like Nicodemus, at night, confused by the fact that "the wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes", we too wondered: "How can this be?" And Jesus tells us too: "Are you are a teacher of Israel, yet you do not understand these things?" (cf. Jn 3:8-10).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Liam Gargan

Sun 8.30am Barbara Rooney

Sun 11.15am Dec members of Geraghty & McGreevey families
Pat Hennelly



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Gerry Loughran

Sun 8.30am Denis O'Toole

Tues 10.00am Patrick & Kathleen Deegan

Sun 11.15 am Cornelious Donovan

Wed 10.00am Nancy Lawless
John Mullane

Bridie & Tom Ruane
Agnes Robinson (MM)

Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

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.



The Blessing of the Graves

The Annual Mass with the blessing of Graves due to be held on Sunday June 28th **is cancelled** due to the Covid19 pandemic. I myself will bless the Cemetery in the week leading up to Sunday 28th 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 Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

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



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All of us felt the worry and fear

"All people, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!"

Newsletter Sunday 28th June 2020



The Pope recently wrote a letter to priests. It's about 8 pages long. A lot of what he wrote is comforting to everyone in the Church and beyond. So over the next few weeks I will quote sections of the letter which I feel will appeal to everyone and not just priests. In place of the priest you can place yourself or someone who you know and love or indeed the stranger doing his/her 'bit' during the pandemic

"In writing to you, I think of the early apostolic community, which also experienced moments of confinement, isolation, fear and uncertainty. Fifty days passed amid immobility, isolation, yet the first proclamation would change their lives forever. For even as the doors of the place where they stayed were closed out of fear, the disciples were surprised by Jesus who "stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'. After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you'. And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (Jn 20:19-22). May we too let ourselves be surprised!

The doors of the house where the disciples met were locked for fear (Jn 20:19) Today, as then, we sense that "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted... are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts" (Gaudium et Spes, 1). How well we know this! We all listened to the numbers and percentages that daily bombarded us; with our own hands we touched the pain of our people. What we heard was not something alien to our own experience: the statistics had names, faces, stories of which we were a part. As a community of priests, we were no strangers to these situations; we did not look out at them from a window. Braving the tempest, you found ways to be present and accompany your communities; when you saw the wolf coming, you did not flee or abandon the flock (cf. Jn 10:12-13).

Suddenly we suffered the loss of family, neighbours, friends, parishioners, confessors, points of reference for our faith. We saw the saddened faces of those unable to be present and bid farewell to their loved ones in their final hours. We felt the suffering and powerlessness experienced by health care workers who, themselves exhausted, continued to work for days on end, out of a concern to meet so many needs.

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*



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That's all!

Monday 29th June

Tomorrow is the day when we can reopen for the public celebration of Mass. After three long months it is wonderful to be able to do so.

The Church has been marked out to observe social distancing. With the 2 metre rule the Church can only accommodate 42 people.

Volunteers

Last week myself and Pat Lynch sent out an email looking for volunteers. I thank most sincerely all who responded and who attended the training morning last Friday.

I know that parishioners will respond graciously to the volunteer steward's directions

Seating

Volunteers will suggest where to sit in the Church

More than 42

What happens when we reach the 42 limit? When that happens the volunteer stewards will inform you that the Church is full, that it has reached the limit demanded by Government regulations.

It will be awful to be informed that you cannot come in to participate and celebrate in the Mass. It will also be awful for the volunteer who informs you of this!

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

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 with sanitising required after every Liturgy, then one on Saturday is enough.

Church of Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam

They have their own 'Covid Committee' and planning is going very well. Their first Mass will be 9.15am on Friday 3rd July – the First Friday

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*

Mass Intentions

Mass times have changed for July and August.

If you have booked a Mass for 8.00am Monday - Friday for July and August, this intention will be moved to the 10.00am on the day.

If you have booked the 6.30 Saturday Vigil Mass for July and August, this intention will be moved to 11.15am on Sunday

All Masses can be viewed on the Webcam

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.

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.



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 St Mary 01 8404323 from 6pm - 9.30pm from Sunday 28th June. - 4th July 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.