

## A story

The Greek writer Plutarch tells the following story about Alexander the Great. One day, Alexander came upon Diogenes the ancient philosopher, and he was examining some bones. He had two sets of human bones in two separate boxes. When Alexander asked him what he was doing, he said he was reflecting on some of the more important lessons in life. 'For example', said Diogenes, 'the two sets of bones here are those of your father, and one of his slaves. I have examined them for some time, and I honestly must confess that I cannot find any difference between them.'

John Quincy Adams, at 80 years of age, was shuffling along outside his house one day, when a neighbor greeted him with the question, 'And how is Mr. John Quincy Adams this morning?' The old man replied, 'John Quincy Adams himself is very well, thank you. But the home he lives in is sadly dilapidated. It is tottering on its foundations. The walls are badly shaken, the roof is worn. The building trembles, and shivers with every wind, and I'm afraid John Quincy Adams will soon have to move out of it, move on, and change residence and address. But he himself is very well.' (Source: Fr. Jack McArdle ss cc – *And that's the Gospel truth*)

*Fr. Michael Carey*

### Mass Intentions this Sunday

**Sat 6.30pm** Alice Roe(An)

**Sun 8.30am** Cathal Kelly(An)

**Sun 11.15am** Mary O'Connor(An)



**At our Masses this Sunday we also remember:** Bernadette & Jim McConville, Anna Walsh

### Mass intentions for Next Week

**Mon** 8.00am Souls in Purgatory

**Mon** 10.00am Nuala Ryan

**Tues** 8.00am Divine Mercy Thanksgiving

**Tues** 10.00am Bernadette & Jim McConville  
& Anna Walsh

**Wed** 8.00am Deceased members of Byrne Family

**Wed** 10.00am Kevin & Anne Wynne

**Thurs** 8.00am Deceased members of Jennings Family

**Thurs** 10.00am JC Savage

**Fri** 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

**Fri** 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

**Sat** 10.00am Dec members of Keaney Family

### Next Sunday

**Sat** 6.30pm Cindy Foran

**Sun** 8.30am Elizabeth McKittrick

**Sun** 11.15am Dr Frank McCarthy

### 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.stfiniansparish.com/> , <https://www.brackentown-parish.com>, [www.churchservices.tv/](http://www.churchservices.tv/) or <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/>



**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**



## 5th Sunday of Lent

**'I am the resurrection and the life.'**

*"Hold fast to love and justice (Hosea. 12:6)" –*

*Trocaire Scripture reference for Lent 2020*

Newsletter Sunday 29th March 2020



Quite frequently the gospel passage we hear today is read at Funeral Masses. It is not difficult to understand why since Jesus is consoling a family in grief. He goes a step further though and brings back to life the one who has died. Often, we wish we could do likewise but that script is not ours to write and that power rests in God's hand alone.

We remember Martha and Mary from another wonderful gospel story – the one where Jesus visited their home. Martha began to cook a meal for the Lord and Mary sat at his feet listening to him. In a short while, Martha became annoyed by this and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help him, but Jesus insisted Mary had chosen the better part and that Martha worried about too many things. The truth is though Jesus needed both. Martha's work in the kitchen was as central to his visit as Mary's reverence. They approached him in different ways but their friendship for and love of him was solid. That is why he is at their house today – they were his friends as was Lazarus who has died.

Once again, we find Martha in motion and Mary sitting in the house. Little, it seems has changed. Martha on the move, Mary pondering but both wanting Jesus to be there for them at this sad hour.

It is interesting that both of them say more or less the same words to Jesus: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died" – interesting because, though they have different approaches and personality types, they have each arrived at the same conclusion. They both know that Jesus is the only answer to their situation and that his presence is key.

Where are we today in this story? Are we rushing around the place with Martha or can we sit and reflect with Mary? Faith is at its very best when both types are interspersed. Both faith types are needed and whichever category we might fit into, be happy and at peace there. For in the fullness of faith, we will all arrive at that same point of recognition of the central place Jesus holds in our lives. (*Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2020*)

### 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 - next weekend**

In Holy Week we celebrate the Mystery of our Salvation in Jesus Christ. These final days in the earthly life of Christ begin with his triumphal entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem. The liturgy of Palm Sunday too begins with this joyful entry into Jerusalem, the procession of Palm branches. These branches are not simply blessed objects, but signs of joyful participation in this procession and an expression of the faith of the Church in Christ. Later, during the Liturgy of the Word, we listen attentively to the account of the Passion – glory and suffering, the characteristic which is present throughout the entirety of Holy Week. (Source: Glenstal Sunday Missal.)

*In all probability this Mass will not be a public Mass. Mass will be celebrated privately on Saturday evening – the Vigil during which palm crosses will be blessed. These will be available in the Church on Sunday for you to take home. I will also leave the Mass booklets in the Church – please feel free to one home and pray the Passion Narrative at home or sit in the Church and read it.*

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

As we are only too well aware by now our world is facing an unprecedented health crisis posed by the coronavirus.

To manage the rate of increase and to adequately and effectively treat those who have the illness caused by the virus drastic action had had to be taken by all sectors of society. To that end **ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED** until further notice. The priests of the parish will celebrate Mass each day for the 'booked' Mass intentions and for the intentions of the People of the Parish. The Mass each day will be behind closed doors, or at the priest's home. 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**

### **Missalettes – Newsletter**

These are at the door of the Church – please take home with you. The Sunday readings in conjunction with the comments and reflections in the newsletter should I hope be a spiritual comfort and resource for you.

**The Parish Office is open normal hours for telephone calls and emails - but not to personal callers**

### **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.***



### **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). Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

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

Ann Flanagan  
Tommy O'Keefe

Coolock  
Drynam Road



### **Lenten Wilderness**

In St. Colmcille's, there is a beautiful Lenten Dessert, highlighting a different approach to the journey through Lent. I want to acknowledge and thank Avril O'Reilly who is adding to this desert the theme of the Sunday Gospel each week. Do keep an 'eye' on it – it will change as we progress through Lent

### **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 or in the letterbox at Parish Office. Also, this might be a time to consider donating by Standing Order. Please contact the Parish Office and a form can be posted out to you. Tel: 01 8407277.

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"