

and not infrequently at the expense of their own health. Our gratitude and affection go to them, to all who work diligently to guarantee the essential services necessary for civil society, and to the law enforcement and military personnel who in many countries have helped ease people's difficulties and sufferings.

In these weeks, the lives of millions of people have suddenly changed. For many, remaining at home has been an opportunity to reflect, to withdraw from the frenetic pace of life, stay with loved ones and enjoy their company. For many, though, this is also a time of worry about an uncertain future, about jobs that are at risk and about other consequences of the current crisis. I encourage political leaders to work actively for the common good, to provide the means and resources needed to enable everyone to lead a dignified life and, when circumstances allow, to assist them in resuming their normal daily activities.

This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic. May the risen Jesus grant hope to all the poor, to those living on the peripheries, to refugees and the homeless. May these, the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters living in the cities and peripheries of every part of the world, not be abandoned. Let us ensure that they do not lack basic necessities (all the more difficult to find now that many businesses are closed) such as medicine and especially the possibility of adequate health care. In light of the present circumstances, may international sanctions be relaxed, since these make it difficult for countries on which they have been imposed to provide adequate support to their citizens, and may all nations be put in a position to meet the greatest needs of the moment through the reduction, if not the forgiveness, of the debt burdening the balance sheets of the poorest nations.

This is not a time for self-centredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons. Among the many areas of the world affected by the coronavirus, I think in a special way of Europe. After the Second World War, this continent was able to rise again, thanks to a concrete spirit of solidarity that enabled it to overcome the rivalries of the past. It is more urgent than ever, especially in the present circumstances, that these rivalries do not regain force, but that all recognise themselves as part of a single family and support one another. The European Union is presently facing an epochal challenge, on which will depend not only its future but that of the whole world. Let us not lose the opportunity to give further proof of solidarity, also by turning to innovative solutions. The only alternative is the selfishness of particular interests and the temptation of a return to the past, at the risk of severely damaging the peaceful coexistence and development of future generations.

This is not a time for division. May Christ our peace enlighten all who have responsibility in conflicts, that they may have the courage to support the appeal for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. This is not a time for continuing to manufacture and deal in arms, spending vast amounts of money that ought to be used to care for others and save lives. Rather, may this be a time for finally ending the long war that has caused such great bloodshed in beloved Syria, the conflict in Yemen and the hostilities in Iraq and in Lebanon. May this be the time when Israelis and Palestinians resume dialogue in order to find a stable and lasting solution that will allow both to live in peace. May the sufferings of the people who live in the eastern regions of Ukraine come to an end. May the terrorist attacks carried out against so many innocent people in different African countries come to an end.

This is not a time for forgetfulness. The crisis we are facing should not make us forget the many other crises that bring suffering to so many people. May the Lord of life be close to all those in Asia and Africa who are experiencing grave humanitarian crises, as in the Province of Cabo Delgado in the north of Mozambique. May he warm the hearts of the many refugees displaced because of wars, drought and famine. May he grant protection to migrants and refugees, many of them children, who are living in unbearable conditions, especially in Libya and on the border between Greece and Turkey. And I do not want to forget the island of Lesbos. In Venezuela, may he enable concrete and immediate solutions

**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**



Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy  
**The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One**  
*“Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God”*  
Newsletter Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020



For this weeks' newsletter I am printing the Pope's 'urbi et Orbi' message delivered last Sunday from St. Peter's Basilica which I find beautiful and very uplifting

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!

Today the Church's proclamation echoes throughout the world: "Jesus Christ is risen!" – "He is truly risen!"

Like a new flame this Good News springs up in the night: the night of a world already faced with epochal challenges and now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our whole human family. In this night, the Church's voice rings out: "Christ, my hope, has arisen!" (Easter Sequence).

This is a different "contagion", a message transmitted from heart to heart – for every human heart awaits this Good News. It is the contagion of hope: "Christ, my hope, is risen!". This is no magic formula that makes problems vanish. No, the resurrection of Christ is not that. Instead, it is the victory of love over the root of evil, a victory that does not "by-pass" suffering and death, but passes through them, opening a path in the abyss, transforming evil into good: this is the unique hallmark of the power of God.

The Risen Lord is also the Crucified One, not someone else. In his glorious body he bears indelible wounds: wounds that have become windows of hope. Let us turn our gaze to him that he may heal the wounds of an afflicted humanity.

Today my thoughts turn in the first place to the many who have been directly affected by the coronavirus: the sick, those who have died and family members who mourn the loss of their loved ones, to whom, in some cases, they were unable even to bid a final farewell. May the Lord of life welcome the departed into his kingdom and grant comfort and hope to those still suffering, especially the elderly and those who are alone. May he never withdraw his consolation and help from those who are especially vulnerable, such as persons who work in nursing homes, or live in barracks and prisons. For many, this is an Easter of solitude lived amid the sorrow and hardship that the pandemic is causing, from physical suffering to economic difficulties.

This disease has not only deprived us of human closeness, but also of the possibility of receiving in person the consolation that flows from the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation. In many countries, it has not been possible to approach them, but the Lord has not left us alone! United in our prayer, we are convinced that he has laid his hand upon us (cf. Ps 138:5), firmly reassuring us: Do not be afraid, "I have risen and I am with you still!" (cf. Roman Missal, Entrance Antiphon, Mass of Easter Sunday).

May Jesus, our Passover, grant strength and hope to doctors and nurses, who everywhere offer a witness of care and love for our neighbours, to the point of exhaustion



Dear brothers and sisters,  
 Indifference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words for ever! They seem to prevail when fear and death overwhelm us, that is, when we do not let the Lord Jesus triumph in our hearts and lives. May Christ, who has already defeated death and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, dispel the darkness of our suffering humanity and lead us into the light of his glorious day, a day that knows no end.

With these thoughts, I would like to wish all of you a happy Easter.

*Pope Francis*

**Fr. Michael Carey**

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**Sat 6.30pm** Mary Stafford  
**Sun 8.30am** Tom & Alice Kane  
 Vera & Vinnie Pepper  
**Sun 11.15am** Mary & Matthew Dillon  
 Oonagh O'Flaherty (1st An)



**Mass times via the Parish webcam, view on [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)**

<b>Monday - Friday</b>	10.00am	Morning Prayer
<b>Monday - Friday</b>	5.00pm	Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	7.00pm	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday</b>	5.00pm	Evening Prayer

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

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

Kathleen Marry	North Street
Ivan Rogers	Castlegrange Hill
Mark Perry	Seatown Villas
Nuala Wiggins	Highfield Crescent



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Michael Kilbride	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Mary Stafford
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Ellen Farrell	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Tom & Alice Kane Vera & Vinnie Pepper
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Thomas Noctor	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Mary & Matthew Dillon Oonagh O'Flaherty (1st An)
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Marie Duffy	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Nuala Collier	

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

In line with other notices we will join with the online congregation from the parish via webcam for the Vigil Mass for Sunday at 7PM on Saturday evening. The web address for the St. Colmcilles Webcam is <https://swords-parish.com>



Next week we are planning to hold our Pastoral Team Meeting online via Zoom.

- The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com).
- Please check the Parish website, it is being updated daily [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com).
- A digital copy of *Sunday's missalette*, which includes the readings is now available on the Parish website (home page) [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)
- A digital copy of *The Sacred Heart Messenger* is now available on the Parish website (news and events page) [swords-Parish.com](http://swords-Parish.com)
- There is a link on Parish website for messages from Pope Francis (Vatican News) (news and events page). [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)