

Of course, the behaviour of the apostles in the aftermath of Pentecost is another great reinforcement to our faith. Here is a group of people who had run away when their Master was arrested and crucified, and who had cowered behind locked doors even after His resurrection. Then, suddenly, they achieve a courage to go out and start preaching the Good News. They do so without fear, not caring what may happen to them and, indeed, they welcome the opportunity to suffer for the Risen Christ. If they had been charlatans who had hoped to achieve wealth and fame this new movement of theirs would not have lasted long. As Gamaliel said "If this plan (of theirs) is of men, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them" (Acts 5:35-39).

On the face of it, belief and questioning are antithetical. Yet, they can go hand in hand. As Martin Scorsese says in his introduction to Shusaku Endo's brilliant book "**Silence**" "Faith and questioning go hand in hand. One nourishes the other. Questioning may lead to great loneliness, but if it co-exists with faith - true faith - abiding faith—it can end in the most joyful sense of communion. It can be painful, paradoxical passage - from certainty to doubt to loneliness to communion" Faith is a gift. We may struggle with it at times and in such dark moments we can only pray "Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief." . (Written by Peter McDermott, former Teacher at St. Aidan's Whitehall) **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special Intention

Mon 10.00am Molly Rennie

Tues 8.00am Special intention

Tues 10.00am Pierce Doyle

Wed 8.00am Michael Casey

Wed 10.00 Thomas Macken

Thurs 8.00am Michael Casey

Thurs 10.00 Special intention

Patricia McGonagle MM

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

Sat 6.30pm Patrick & Mary Kate Gallagher

Sun 8.30am Nancy Lawless

Sun 11.00am John & Julia Purcell

Sun 6.30pm Dan & Eva Geoghegan

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am/11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon , No weekday Masses until 18th July

Today we welcome Fr. David Larkin from the Kiltegan Fathers who will tell us about their work on the Missions. We fondly remember Rosemary O'Neill, a regular attendee at Mass here in Drynam, who died suddenly recently. May she rest now in the peace of Christ, Our Lord.



Pathways

Pathways is a two-year one night a week course for adults who wish to explore their faith. It runs from mid-September to May each year. There are no exams and no written work. The only requirement is an openness to listening to others and to participate. You can just come along and enjoy!. The cost is €400 for the coming academic year. Booking is now open. The programme begins this year in Clonliffe College on Thursday 22nd September 2016 - 7.00pm - 9.30pm. For further information please visit the webpage www.evangelisation.ie , phone 8379253 ext 294, email pathways@dublindiocese.ie

Swords Senior Citizens AGM will be held on monday 27th June at 8pm in Senior Citizens Centre, Chapel Lane. All welcome, refreshments will be served

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-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



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Reality of Doubt, the Use of Reason, the Gift of Faith (2)

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

Newsletter Sunday 26th June 2016



In the first part of this article we looked at the rational arguments for the existence of God. The reality, of course, is that the existence of God can neither be conclusively proved nor disproved by mathematical means. It is unfortunate that over the centuries religion has intruded into the domain of science and science has intruded into the realm of religion. We should remember that science is about explanation while religion is about meaning.

And while we should use our God given reason to arrive at a rational understanding of creation and in a Creator, ultimately it all comes down to faith - faith in the Resurrection of His Son. As St. Paul said (Corinthians 15:14) ***"If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and your faith is in vain."***

We should also remember that doubt is normal, even healthy. We should never think that doubt is sinful. As J.R. Tolkien (Author of

Lord of the Rings) said ***"Not all those who wander are lost."*** Those who "wander" may actually be seeking the truth (think of the Magi). Indeed Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, speaking at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne in 2014, said ***"Certainties can deceive. Seeking can be a healthy sign of respect for a truth we still have to enter profoundly."***

One of the greatest doubters must surely have been St. Thomas or "Doubting Thomas" as he is often called. In many respects he is my favourite saint as, in my opinion, he is the one who asks the questions which any rational person would ask if confronted by some of the situations he finds himself in. He combines a healthy scepticism with reason and, eventually faith. When told by his companions that they had seen the risen Lord, he attests that unless he sees in His hands ***"the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe."***

We know what happened. Eight days later, the Lord appears again and invites Thomas to do just that: to place his hand in His side. And Thomas utters the greatest avowal of faith ever spoken ***"My Lord and my God."***

According to Pope St. Gregory the Great, the faith of "Thomas the doubter" becomes a bolster for our own faith - even more so than the faith of the other disciples. He says ***"Do you really think that it was by chance that this chosen disciple (Thomas) was first absent, then came and heard, heard and doubted, doubted and touched, touched and believed? It was not by chance but in God's providence. In a marvellous way, God's mercy arranged that the disbelieving disciple, in touching the wounds of His Master's body, should heal the wounds of our disbelief."***

Ironically, the disbelief of Thomas has done more for our faith than the faith of the other disciples. The very apostle who doubted becomes a witness to the reality of the Resurrection. So doubting is natural and healthy and doubters often become the greatest believers!

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

St. Colmcille's Cemetery Sunday

This Sunday 26th June the Parish will celebrate Cemetery Sunday here in Swords. The Cemetery Mass will take place at 4.00pm in the Church - followed by Blessing of the Cemetery.

1916 Volunteers

On this Cemetery Sunday and on the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, I thought it appropriate to name the volunteers who are buried in St. Colmcille's Cemetery:



*Arthur Agnew; Christopher Moran; Christopher Nugent; William Doyle;
James Marks; Peadar O Ceallaigh; Jack Kelly; Edward Stafford; Christopher Taylor;
Thomas Taylor; Joseph Taylor; Colm Lawless; Peter Moran; Bernard McAllister;
Kathleen McAllister (nee Lawless); Julia Mary Weston; Thomasina Weston Lynders;
Bartle Weston (Balheary); Thomas Weston (Balheary); Ailbhe O Monachain;
James Wilson; Tommy Duff; Mary Duff; Patrick Joseph Early; James Heron;
Felim Coleman; Joseph Norton; Peter Wilson (Balheary) and William Wilson (Balheary)
known as 'The Beck' buried in St. Columba's graveyard*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, Rest in Peace. Amen

Book of Intentions- a new book

At the back of the Church (St. Colmcille's) is a 'Book of Intentions'. I invite you to write prayer requests in it and a special 'Prayer of the Faithful' will be said every Sunday. This is proving very popular and the Parish is now on its **6th book**. One can only be but touched at the difficulties that people are experiencing and also the prayers of thanksgiving for 'favours' received

Summer Schedule

This effects only the **Saturday 10.00am Morning Mass**. From yesterday Saturday 25th June there will be no Saturday morning Mass for the summer months. It will resume on Saturday 17th September. All other Masses will remain as scheduled.

To that end this Mass and the morning Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ceased on Saturday 25th June and will resume on Saturday 17th September. There are confession on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 13th August. Coach departs at 8.00am from The Star. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel Strokestown. Cost - (coach only) €15. Please contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 8402268

Strawberry Fayre

If you'd like strawberries, cakes and other stuff, why not call into the Strawberry Fayre in Whitehall Church today Sunday 26th June from 10.30am to 1.00pm

Year of Mercy – *the cry of the innocent*

The nineteenth and twentieth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericordiae Vultus' continues -

This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! When faced with evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes, it is the time to ***listen to the cry of innocent people*** who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their very lives. To stick to the way of evil will only leave one deluded and sad. True life is something entirely different. God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen, as I am too, along with my brother bishops and priests. All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church.

It would not be out of place at this point to recall the relationship between justice and mercy. These are not two contradictory realities, but two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love. Justice is a fundamental concept for civil society, which is meant to be governed by the rule of law. Justice is also understood as that which is rightly due to each individual. In the Bible, there are many references to divine justice and to God as "judge". In these passages, justice is understood as the full observance of the Law and the behaviour of every good Israelite in conformity with God's commandments. Such a vision, however, has not infrequently led to legalism by distorting the original meaning of justice and obscuring its profound value. To overcome this legalistic perspective, we need to recall that in Sacred Scripture, justice is conceived essentially as the faithful abandonment of oneself to God's will.

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Gemma Rose Duddy, Axel Noah Cassidy, Rose Elizabeth Cullen, Hugo James Morris, Bobby Felix Holbrook O'Reilly, Damien Mark Appleford



Cemetery Sunday – Collection

As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

Peter's Pence

Next Sunday 3rd July, is the Sunday nearest the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. To that end the 2nd Collection (Share) is replaced by the 'Peter's Pence' collection. This collection is for the Pope and Pontifical Charities

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Michael Casey
Joey O'Neill**

**Holywell Wood
Blackbridges Swords**

