

When asked what he sees in young people, he says, ‘a young person stands on two feet as adults do, but unlike adults whose feet are parallel, he always has one foot forward, ready to set out, to spring ahead.’ Pope Francis acknowledges the strength that young people have. In fact, young people can change the world. This is what we are called to do!

As Irish society changes, it is important that we reflect on the unique contribution of Catholic schools to our collective goal of education. Catholic schools offer a view of the world as the gift of God’s creation. We are called to be co-creators of love and joy in the world, thus sharing God’s love. We are called to be stewards of the environment, with a responsibility to protect the environment around us for future generations.....

God’s creation is an ecology of relationships. We have the unique gift of being able to care for ourselves, for others and for the environment around us. We have a relationship with each of these. Jesus teaches us to love one another as he has loved us. This week, we celebrate the gifts and talents we have in living out Jesus’ teaching.

Saint Paul writes in his first letter to the Corinthians; ‘For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ’. This year, we celebrate how we are each called to promote peace, unity and harmony in the world, in our words, thoughts and actions. In caring for others, the environment and ourselves, we learn to live in harmony with God’s creation.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Thomas & Elizabeth O’Brien(An)

Sun 8.30am Declan Hanratty (An)

Sun 11.15am John Bateman(An)

Paddy Kelly



At our Masses this Sunday we also remember: Sam & Mary Dennigan

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Kathleen Cadigan

Sat 10.00am Mary Lowndes

Mon 10.00am Charles & Noel Farrell

Tues 8.00am Rose Geoghegan

Next Sunday

Tues 10.00am Maura Rock
Nancy Doyle

Wed 8.00am Gerry Coffey

Sat 6.30pm John & Bridget McNulty

Wed 10.00am Maurice McDonald

Helen Clarke (1st An)

Thurs 8.00am Bernard Walsh

Sun 8.30am Molly & Paddy O’Keefe &

Thurs 10.00am Bill Clancy

daughter, Jacqueline

Fri 8.00am Aidan O’Reilly

Sun 11.15am Desmond Walsh

Fri 10.00am Sadie Coulter

Joe Humphries

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

Next Sunday at 10:00AM Mass in Drynam we will have the next step of the ‘Do This In Memory’ programme for the children of Holywell ETNS preparing for First Holy Communion..



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



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living in Harmony with God’s Creation

“O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth”

Newsletter Sunday 26th January 2020



We are beginning Catholic Schools Week (CSW) and the resources provided for the schools are excellent. The theme for this year is ‘Living in Harmony with God’s Creation’, which needless to say is very topical for today as environmentalism and climate change are never off the political, social and personal agenda. For the next fortnight I will draw from this excellent resource (#CSW2020) for the newsletter. The theme of this year’s Catholic Schools Week is ‘Catholic Schools: Living in Harmony with God’s Creation’. The theme encourages us to see that we all have a responsibility to care for the earth, not just for our own future, but for the future of every one of God’s creatures.

Between 2015 and 2017, Trócaire’s Lenten campaigns focused on ‘Climate Change, Climate Justice’. In 2015, Pope Francis’ wrote his encyclical Laudato Si’, which was the basis of Catholic Schools Week in 2017. This year, we re-echo the messages of that encyclical, but also present the apostolic exhortation Christus Vivit (Christ is alive). It highlights key issues in society and gives us a clear direction on what to do. Pope Francis has very clearly delivered the message to Catholic people all over the world: ‘The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change’ (LS, 13). Part of this change is to recognise that we live in this world in harmony with the world and those around us. If we are conscious of our relationships with God, our neighbours, all generations, the earth and our Catholic school, we can identify the steps it takes to live in harmony. Pope Francis challenges us to look at our lifestyles. We must become aware of the impact our lives have on the lives of others. He asks for justice and equality, as it is clear that the vulnerable all around the world are further impacted by our actions here in the first world. The hope of Catholic Schools Week 2020 is that we realise how powerful each and everyone of us is and that even the smallest changes can have the biggest impact.

‘Living in Harmony with God’s Creation’. A stress is placed on ‘harmony’. The Peace Pilgrim quote states that ‘when you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others.’ In order to look outwards, we must first look inwards. In Laudato Si’, Pope Francis says that ‘we are capable of going out of ourselves towards the other.’ We are capable. He points out that this can only come with a rejection of self-centredness and self-absorption. In Christus Vivit, Pope Francis describes young people as the ‘now’ of God. Young people enrich the world. He goes on to say to young people that ‘you are important to him, for you are the work of his hands. That is why he is concerned about you and looks to you with affection.’ It is clear that Pope Francis has a very deep understanding of the harmony that exists between God and the young person.

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*



Do This in Memory – Bridge Programme

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

Scoil an Duinninigh

Congratulations to the buachailli and cailini from Scoil an Duinninigh who celebrated the Ceremony of Light last Thursday. They will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Colmcille's Swords on Tuesday 4th February next

Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

Catholic Schools Week 2020 will run from 26th January to 2nd February 2020. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools: **Living in harmony with God's Creation**. The themes for the individual days very much describe the faith life of a Catholic school. This year's theme is very much a celebration of the ongoing work of our Catholic schools. We reflect on the Gospel values on which all Catholic schools are built and consider how each of us contribute to our characteristic spirit. The engagement with understanding the Mystery of Christ and the revelation that comes from Scriptures is the 'bedrock for Catholic schools' (Fr Michael Drumm). During the coming week, we invite you to join us in celebrating the contribution that our Catholic schools (St. Colmcille's GNS and St. Colmcille's BNS and Scoil an Duinninigh) make to the life of the faith community here in our parish.

The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas

This Day falls on **Sunday week 2nd February**. If anybody would like candles blessed on the Feast day, please leave in the Sacristy beforehand or bring on the day and place on the table in the sanctuary. If you do not have a candle we are blessing candles during this Mass and they can be purchased from the Sacristy at €2 each

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment application forms for girls starting school in September 2020 are available from the school completed forms to be returned before January 31st

Birth Certificate & proof of address must accompany all forms

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2020 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st

Birth Certificate & proof of address must accompany all forms

• **NCBI – National Council for the Blind**

Church Gate collection this weekend Sat/Sun 25th/26th January

• **Liturgy Meeting**

The Parish Liturgy team will meet on Tuesday 28th January at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Dublin Diocese Spring Liturgy Seminar

The Spring liturgy Seminar will take place in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe on **Saturday 15th February from 9.30am to 1.30pm**

Workshops: (1). 2020 Vision, **(2)** Let Us Go to God's House **(3)** Reading with Authority, **(4)** Supporting Women and Families, **(5)** Blinded by Your Grace.

Full details are on the Parish Website. If you are interested in attending please contact Colette at the Parish Office

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The heart of Jesus' proclamation is given in today's Gospel. As is often noted, the word "repent" is not the best translation of the original Greek and it would be better to use some other expression such as "convert." It really means a new way of looking at everything, a new mind or outlook. It may of course include being sorry about the past, but the real energy is towards the future: "convert and put your trust in the Good News." We could put it like this: from what are we called to conversion is important; more important is towards what are we being called?

Prayer - Open our hearts, loving Father, that we may know both healing and hope. Touch our inmost selves and bring us the wholeness we need. Plant in our hearts the vision of your reign that we be people of hope, faith and love. *(Source: St. Paul's Missal)*

Pope Francis' prayer for the earth.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. **Amen.**

Volunteer Hairdresser needed St Francis Hospice Blanchardstown

Are you a hairdresser or do you know one who might be interested in volunteering for a few hours each week? We need one experienced volunteer hairdresser for our Hospice Day Care.

Fridays from 10.30am – 12.00pm. Could you help? It will really make a difference for our patients. Contact Barbara Kilbride, Co-Ordinator Volunteer Services for further details: volunteers@sfh.ie or telephone: 01 829400