

She spent her remaining years in seclusion and prayer. She died on April 16, 1879 (aged 35) at Nevers. Bernadette was buried on the convent grounds in Nevers, and thirty years later, on September 22, 1909, her body was exhumed in the presence of two doctors, several appointed officials, and nuns from the local convent. When Bernadette's coffin was opened, there was no odour, and her body was found to be incorrupt. A second exhumation took place on April 3, 1919, and Bernadette's body was found in the same state of preservation as previously. At this stage, Bernadette had been declared Venerable. The Chapel of the St. Gildard convent, Nevers, now contains the saint's body. Bernadette Soubirous was canonised on December 8, 1933, in Rome by Pope Pius XI, and her feast day is usually celebrated on April 16; in France, it is sometimes celebrated on February 18th. (*St. Bernadette of Lourdes by Deirdre Powell – St. Martin Magazine, January 2019.*)

Fr. Michael Carey

Intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention	Sat 6.30pm Jacqueline Monaghan
Mon 10.00am Fran Dempsey	Barbara Reid (1st An)
Tues 8.00am Matthew Coyle	
Tues 10.00am Kathleen Phelan	
Wed 8.00am Michael Stokes	Sun 8.30am Maura Coleman
Wed 10.00am Aileen Clare	
Thurs 8.00am Rita Fitzsimons	Sun 11.15am Thomas, Annie & James
Thurs 10.00am Noel Geritty	McKenna
Fri 8.00am Des Corry	John Bond (1st An)
Fri 10.00am In Thanksgiving	Lilian O'Reilly (MM)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)
 We will have a blessing for the sick today at the 10:00AM Mass in anticipation of the World Day of the Sick tomorrow.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Mass is composed of two principal parts: word and sacrament. In the first part, we are invited to listen to God's word, not a passive response but an activity which can transform us. Our scriptures come from a Jewish background. When the Jewish people were celebrating an event of the past it was as if that event were present to them at the moment of celebration. As we celebrate the Lord's supper today that event is made real for us now.
Reflection - Faith has traditionally been called a theological virtue because its presence in a human being prepares and enables that person to share in God's life. Biblical faith is not simply agreeing with a particular belief but is a commitment to God freely given in response to God's prior gift to the believer. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

Worldwide day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Sexual Abuse

This day was approved by Pope Francis in 2016 and takes place on 15th February
 Lord, we are sorry for what some of us did to your children:
 treated them so cruelly, especially in their hour of need.
 We have left them with a lifelong suffering. This was not your plan for them or us.
 Please help us to help them. Guide us, Lord, Amen.
 (*Prayer inscribed on the healing stone unveiled at the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, 2012 in Dublin and now has a permanent home at Lough Derg*)

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
A beautiful young Lady
“O come, let us worship God”



Newsletter Sunday 10th February 2019

Did you know that 2019 marks the 175th anniversary of the birth of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, France, on January 7th, 1844? The Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette 18 times between February 11 – July 16, 1858, at the Grotto of Massabielle, Lourdes.

St. Bernadette was born Marie Bernarde Soubirous in Lourdes, a miller's daughter and the eldest of six surviving children. As she grew older, she was responsible for caring for her brothers and sisters. Her family was very poor. Bernadette was frail in health and contracted cholera in the epidemic of 1854. In addition, she suffered from asthma and other ailments throughout her life.

Bernadette first witnessed Our Lady's apparition on Thursday, February 11, 1858 – she was aged fourteen at the time. Bernadette and two female companions went to the River Gave to gather wood for the Soubirous family. The two girls had to cross a canal of cold water but Bernadette remained on the bank, as she was afraid that she would have an asthma attack. The two companions collected the wood and disappeared along the Gave.

Bernadette subsequently heard a noise and turned her head toward the grotto, which was suddenly filled with golden light. She saw a beautiful young Lady emerge from the interior of the grotto who placed herself at the grotto's entrance above a rosebush. Bernadette began to pray the rosary, but the Lady only recited the Glorias with her. The lady returned to the interior of the rock when the recitation of the Rosary was complete.

This was the first of eighteen visions in total, and during the apparitions, the lady asked Bernadette to pray for the conversion of sinners, and she requested that a Chapel be built at the site. She also asked Bernadette to “drink from the fountain and bathe in it” – but Bernadette had to first scratch the ground to find the spring, which has been there ever since and is the source of Lourdes water.

I am the Immaculate Conception –

There was a lot of publicity in Bernadette's life as a result of the apparitions, and the parish priest wanted to know who the Lady was. During the sixteenth apparition, the Lady said, “I am the Immaculate Conception”, in Bernadette's local dialect. As a result of this revelation the priest knew that Bernadette was telling the truth about the apparitions because the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception had been proclaimed by Pope Pius IX four years previously in 1854. However, Bernadette would not have known this.



After the apparitions, Bernadette was taken to reside with the nuns at the Lourdes Hospice (1861-6), in order to escape public attention. She was granted admission into the novitiate of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Nevers at the motherhouse at Nevers in 1866.



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*



Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their third Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Child Protection – Garda Vetting

Over the Past Year the PPC and Sr. Margaret has done excellent work in ensuring compliance with Diocesan Norms and the Law of the Land. To date 104 volunteers and Ministers have engaged with the process of Garda Vetting. The PPC has decided that the cut-off date for existing volunteers and Ministers is to be February 28th 2019. If for whatever reason you have not begun the process of Garda Vetting then the only conclusion to be drawn is that you do not wish to continue as a volunteer of a member of the Parish Ministry Team

First Penance 2019

Congratulations to the girls in St. Colmcille's GNS and the boys in St. Colmcille's BNS who received their First Penance last Tuesday and Thursday. They were excellently prepared by their class teachers: Ms. Campbell and Ms. Mills (Girls) and Ms Newbanks; Ms. Barrett and Ms. Hoey (Boys). I also thank Sr. Mary and Sr. Margaret for their wonderful ministry in the schools

RCIA – Rite of Christian initiation of Adults

Two candidates (Simon Boelsch and Roger Cheng) for the Easter sacraments are this Sunday going through the **Rite of Acceptance** into the order of catechumens. At this stage the candidates have the beginnings of the spiritual life and the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root. They are declaring their intention to the Church and the Church in turn, carrying out its apostolic mission, accepts them as persons who intend to become its members

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Helen Clarke	St Colmcille's Park
Mary O'Keefe	Forest Road
Angela Hall	Forest Road

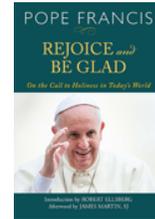


St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **this** weekend at all Masses

Take up Something for Lent

This year for Lent the Parish has decided to read and discuss Pope Francis's book, 'Rejoice and be Glad', we will do this over 5 weeks. This will take the format of a book club where you read a chapter at home and meet as a group to discuss it the next week. Why not give it a try!! For more information together with guidelines for discussion and tips for reading the book, come along to our introduction session on **Thursday 28th February** in the Parochial House at 2.30pm. Books will be supplied and tea and coffee will be served



Rejoice and be Glad!



Accord

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses next **weekend 16th/17th February**. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. 'Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, is a unique sacrament in that its essence is not about a special additional blessing, marriage is about a human reality. It is about a human relationship which is so vital for the good of humanity that it is raised to the level of a sacrament. The human reality of marriage becomes a witness to the love Christ has for his Church and draws its strength from that love of Jesus Christ' (*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – Accord letter*)

28th Divine Mercy Conference

Divine Mercy Conference Committee wish to invite you to their annual conference on the 23rd, 24th February in the RDS, Ballsbridge. On Friday night, 22nd February, we are continuing our very successful addition to the programme which includes Holy Mass, Adoration and Confessions and which is aimed specially for our young people. This year's theme is: **Let Us Not Be Put to the Test** (Mt.6:13). Full schedule available from www.dublindiocese.ie/noticeboard - All welcome.

SURVEY ON SACRAMENTS

The Archdiocese has just launched an online survey, as part of the work of the Sacraments Review Group set up by the Archbishop. The brief of the Review Group is to consult widely and deeply and to make recommendations on we prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation in the future. The hope is that as many as possible will reply to the questions and make their views part of the process.

The survey is open to all. It can be accessed on the Diocesan Website, homepage, under 'Latest News', where there are also a video message and a letter from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. The survey can also be accessed via the Diocesan Facebook and Twitter. The survey is open until 25th February. <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/survey-on-sacraments/>

A link it is also available on the Parish website: www.swords-parish.com