

Now is not the time of God's judgment, but of our own: "a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not."

The Pope said we can draw lessons from the many people who – even though fearful – have reacted by giving their lives, including medical personnel, supermarket clerks, cleaners, priests, police officers, and volunteers. This, he said, "is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial."

Stripped of our self-sufficiency

Pope Francis said faith begins "when we realise we are in need of salvation" and are not self-sufficient.

If we turn to Jesus and hand Him our fears, said the Pope, He will conquer them.

"Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies."

So God asks us now, in the midst of the tempest, "to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering."

His cross is our hope

Jesus' cross, said Pope Francis, is the anchor that has saved us, the rudder that has redeemed us, and our hope, because "by His cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from His redeeming love."

"In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things," he said, "let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: **He is risen and is living by our side.**"

So we embrace His cross in the hardships of the present time, and make room in our hearts "for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring."

"Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope."

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 7.00pm Intentions of Parishioners

Sun 11.15am Intentions of Parishioners



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Michael Kilbride

Tues 10.00am Ellen Farrell

Wed 10.00am Thomas Noctor

Thurs 10.00am Marie Duffy

Fri 10.00am Nuala Collier

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)

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 Easter Ceremonies.

The web address for the St. Colmille's Webcam is <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-columcilles-swords> or through the Parish website [swords-parish.com](https://www.swords-parish.com)

The time table can be found here: <https://www.swords-parish.com/easter-2020>

Fr John will bless the Easter Candle for Drynam at the Vigil on Holy Saturday evening (7:00 PM).



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. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



Easter Sunday

He is risen and is living by our side

"The Lord is truly risen, alleluia"

Newsletter, Sunday 12th April 2020



What to write for a newsletter on this Easter Sunday 2020 in the midst of the Covid19Corona Virus. I thought back to the Pope's 'Urbi et Orbi' message given on Friday 27th March, reread what he said and I think it very appropriate and uplifting for this Easter Sunday's Parish newsletter.

Meditation

Pope Francis offered a meditation on the crisis facing the world, reflecting on a passage from the Gospel of Mark (4:35-41).

"For weeks now it has been evening," said the Pope. "Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice it in people's gestures, their glances give them away."

In this situation, he said, we feel afraid and lost, like the disciples whose boat was in danger of sinking while Jesus slept at the stern.

All in the same boat

The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us that we are all on the same boat, said Pope Francis, and so we call out to Jesus. The disciples ask Him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?"

The Pope said these words would have shaken Jesus, "because He, more than anyone, cares about us."

The storm, said the Pope, exposes "our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules" and lays bare "all those attempts to anesthetize ourselves".

What is revealed, he said, is "our belonging as brothers and sisters", our common humanity.

Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?

Pope Francis then picked up the thread of Jesus' question: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

He said we have all gone ahead "at breakneck speed", ignoring the wars, injustice, and cries of the poor and our ailing planet. "We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick."

In our stormy sea, we now cry out: "Wake up, Lord!"

Now is the time of choosing

Really, said Pope Francis, it is Jesus calling out to us to be converted, calling us to faith. "You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*," he said.

St. Colmcille's Church, Swords
Holy Week Ceremonies 2020
Available on the Parish Webcam
See St. Colmcille's Swords - Website

Monday: April 6th

Morning Prayer 10.00am
Mass 5.00pm

Tuesday: April 7th

Morning Prayer 10.00am
Mass 5.00pm

Wednesday: April 8th

Morning Prayer 10.00am
Mass 5.00pm

Holy Thursday: April 9th

Morning Prayer 10.00am

EASTER TRIDUUM

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 5.00 pm
Night Prayer 9.15pm

Good Friday: April 10th (A Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Morning Prayer 10.00am
Solemn Liturgy of our Lord's Passion and Holy Communion: 3.00 pm
Stations of the Cross: 7.00 pm

Holy Saturday: April 11th

Morning Prayer 10.00 am

EASTER VIGIL: 7.00 pm

Easter Sunday: April 12th

Mass 11.15am,
Evening Prayer 5.00pm



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I am listing below the Stations of the Cross so you can pray them at home. After each station you can reflect on something that touches you and then alternate with the 'Our Father', 'Hail Mary', and 'Glory be'. For the 'honours' course you can find the Scripture reference in your Bible!! After announcing each station, the following prayer is said:

*We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.*

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death (Mark 14:61-64)

SECOND STATION

Jesus carries His Cross (John 19:14-17)

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time (John 15:18-20)

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets his afflicted mother (John 19:25-27)

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross (Mt. 15:20-22)

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (Mt.25:37-40)

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time (Is. 53:4-6)

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (Luke 23:27-28)

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls a third time (Ps. 118:25-28)

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of His clothes (Mt. 27:34-35)

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross (Luke 23:33-35; John 19:18)

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross (Luke 23:44-46; John 19:30b)

THIRTEENTH STATION

The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross (John 19:33-34,38a)

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the tomb (Mt. 27:59-60).

The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email

stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com.

Please check the Parish website, it is being updated daily swords-parish.com.

The Easter ceremonies will available through the Parish webcam, this can be accessed from the Parish website.

The website also has details of Easter ceremonies which will be transmitted on RTE TV on Holy Thursday, Good Friday Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently

Bridget Ryan

Castlegrange

Ann Caraher

Estuary Road

Kathleen Larmon

Bunbury Estate

