

“Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to “tune in” from the “domestic churches” of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child”. (The Archbishop’s comments are continued in the Administrator’s column overleaf) **Fr. Michael Carey**

**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: Website: www.swords-parish.com Email:**  
**stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**  
**Facebook: St. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



4th Sunday of Advent

“Let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour”



**Newsletter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Masses**

**Please read the following carefully:**

**Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass & through the Parish webcam**

**Sat 6.30pm** O’Loughlin & McNally Families

**Sun 8.30am** Peggy Collins

**Sun 11.15am** Des Becton



Christmas 2020 will not be anything like we would expect or want it to be. The latest guidelines state that there will be no choirs and no carol singing this year. It’s not going to sound like Christmas as we know it. The limit of persons in each Church (*including Priest, Ministers and Stewards*) is as follows: **St. Colmille’s, Swords 50** and **Our Lady of the Visitation Drynam 35** (though Drynam has use of a car park and Fr. John will bring Holy Communion to those in their cars)

**Please Remember**

1. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, Holydays and even Christmas **IS STILL SUSPENDED**. All our Masses are available to view from the safety of our on-line broadcast. People do not have to attend in person but can participate in Mass via the web camera live stream, Mass on RTE, on RTE News Now channel or from EWTN and other networks.
2. We are still at Level 3 of lockdown. Some concessions were made to allow churches to open but they are limited and subject to the Government regulations in force on the day. These regulations can change very quickly as the situation develops.
3. Numbers attending each church are very restricted and will have to be rigorously enforced or the Mass cannot go ahead.
4. Please co-operate with the stewards who are volunteers and are doing what is required to keep you safe. They will bring you to a designated seat and you are asked to please stay in that place.
5. Admission to Masses will be strictly on a ‘first come first served’ basis and when the capacity allowed for each church is reached doors will be closed.
6. Face masks must be worn while in the church.
7. There can be no gathering outside either before or after each Mass. People will not be able to greet each other in the traditional way and social distancing of 2 meters must be observed.
8. If you are coming to Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day we would ask that you only attend on one occasion to allow others the opportunity. Archbishop Diarmuid reminds us that there are 12 Days of Christmas and we can attend Mass on any of those days.

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon 10.00am** John & Kathleen O’Connor

**Mon 10.00am** Vera Barker

**Tues 10.00am** Maura Clancy

**Sat 10.00am** Christmas Mass Bouquet cards

**Tues 10.00am** Margaret O’Reilly

**Wed 10.00am** Paddy & Vera Barker

**Wed 10.00am** Elizabeth Burke

**Sun 8.30am** Ray Wilson

**Thurs 10.00am** David Homan

**Thurs 6.30pm** Christmas Bouquet cards

**Thurs 9.00pm** Christmas Bouquet cards

**Sun 11.15am** Geraghty & McGreevy Family

**Fri 8.30am** Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards

Dec members of Kealy Family

**Fri 11.15am** Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.30am (Irish Mass)**

Sunday Mass Times in Drynam will continue at 10:00AM and 11:30AM for the

Irish Mass subject to the restriction in numbers. Next Sunday, 20th December,

we will have a Service of Reconciliation at the 10:00AM Mass.



Advent Wreath

**4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:16-17)

**5th CANDLE** – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – **The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29)**

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together; each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us* **Pope Francis**



### Our Homes as Domestic Churches

It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become "little churches" where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or "household bubbles" to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic". "Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to "tune in" from the "domestic churches" of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child."

*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*

### First Holy Communions

Congratulations to the girls and their families from **St. Colmcille's BNS** who received their First Holy Communion last Monday and Tuesday – it was a great occasion! I thank the School for their great work - the teachers: Ms Orla Murtagh; Mr Jason Coyne and Ms Orlaith McKenna and Principal Ms. Ciara Brangan

Congratulations to the paisti and their families from **Scoil an Duinnigh** who received their First Holy Communion last Wednesday and Thursday – it was a great occasion! I thank the School for their great work – and the muinteoiri Niamh Ni Chonaill and Ciaran O Fainin and Priomhoide Ms. Noirin Ni Laighin

### Happy Christmas

On behalf of myself, Fr. John; Canon Pat; the Parish Sisters; the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam a joyful and Happy Christmas. May Christ Jesus dwell with you, keep you from all harm, and make you one in mind and heart, now and forever. Amen

### Should I go to Mass on Christmas Eve/Day?

Please see the front of the newsletter. *Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Bear in mind that in Drynam there is a car park and people can receive Holy Communion in their cars.*

### Confessions

There are Confessions on Christmas Eve from 10.30am till 12noon and from 3.00pm till 4.00pm.

### • Carol Service – online only

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This will be a **webcam only** event BUT Morgan has put a lot of work into it and it will be beautiful. If you cannot watch it on the day our Webcam provider will record it so that it can be viewed at any time

### The Sunday Obligation

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass

- **Diary 2021** The diary for the booking of Mass intentions for 2021 is now open. Please note that during this time of Covid, the Sacristy will be open for about 15mins after the 10am morning Mass

### • Christmas Cards and Timetable

These are at the doors of the Church. Please take one home with you and if you can, please take some for your neighbours

### • 2021 Calendar

These are at the back of the Church. Please take one home with you and if you can, please take some for your neighbours

### • Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them **BUT** bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with you.

### • Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections

At every Mass, weekday and weekend there will be collection boxes situated around the Church. If you cannot make the Sunday Mass, but are able to go to the weekday Mass, you can make your weekly contribution during the weekday Mass. Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group extend our deepest sympathy to ALL bereaved people, especially those who have suffered bereavement during the Covid pandemic. If you would like to talk to a member please email the parish office: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com). <https://www.bethany.ie> .From January 3rd please call Kay at 086 2209297

### JESSE TREE-week 4

**Palm Tree:** Christ is often holding the palm branch as a symbol of his triumph over sin and death

**Peace:** On Christmas night, the angels declared 'Peace to all who enjoy God's favour'. Jesus came to bring peace on earth, he is the prince of peace.

**Jesus-Chi-Ro symbol:** Our final symbol represents Jesus, who came to be our Saviour and whose birthday we will celebrate on Tuesday. May He come into our lives and hearts once again this Christmas.