

Paying tribute to all who are working in Chaplaincy services in the Archdiocese at this time, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin asked that we continue to pray for all those who are ill, those have died and families and friends who have been bereaved. He added, "In our, we remember those who have come here from abroad and who celebrate Easter far from their home and their traditions. Some of these immigrants are the backbone of our carers and health care workers. We must reach out to them and their families at this time"

He reiterated his call first made on St. Patricks Day as the country undertook measures necessary to preserve life by saying; "*We are in a difficult situation and one that will not see its end for some time.*"

We are being asked to take very restrictive measures. We are obliged to respond with a sense of personal responsibility and civic duty. Our sacrifices are overshadowed when we think of the great commitment of our public health services, especially our nurses, doctors, public health officials and carers. We owe them all a debt of gratitude. I thank our priests as they continue to minister to the sick, the troubled and the bereaved. Generosity and creativity are being combined by so many to respond to what is above all a call to solidarity, a call to care for one another."

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm John Collins

Sun 8.30am Barry O'Rourke

Sun 11.15am Stephen Farrell



At our Mass this weekend we also pray for : Jane O'Gorman

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Peter Rogers

Mon 10.00am Peter Rogers

Tues 8.00am Ann & Christopher Farren

Tues 10.00am Mary Eyre (Rec Dec)

Wed 8.00am Michael Knockdon

Wed 10.00am Theresa Barker

Thurs 8.00am Dec members of Morton Family

Thurs 10.00am Aidan Scully

Fri 8.00am Altar list of the Dead

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Sat 10.00am Maureen McCaul

Sun 6.30pm Niamh Sheridan

Sun 8.30 am Imelda McNeill

Sun 11.15am Gwen Glynn

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

We held our Pastoral Team Meeting online via Zoom on Tuesday evening.

We continue to join the congregation from the parish via webcam for the Vigil Mass for Sunday from St. Colmcille's church at 7PM on Saturday evening .

swords-parish.com



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(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)

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Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



3rd Sunday of Easter

We are in a difficult situation

"Cry out with joy to God, all the earth...O render him glorious praise, alleluia"

Newsletter, Sunday 26th April 2020



The Archbishop asked some of his hospital chaplains to share some of their experiences with him which he in turned shared with the Diocese. Below is a reflection by one of the chaplains.

Fr. John Kelly, Chaplain, Tallaght University Hospital

"The work of healthcare chaplains is face-to-face - listening compassionately, connecting immediately and loving unconditionally. COVID-19 has challenged and changed the way we provide this pastoral care. Wherever chaplains are, whether at the bedside or the other end of a video camera, it is about connecting people.

On Holy Thursday I visited a 91year old patient named Ann with confirmed coronavirus. A beautiful person who attended daily Mass. After a pastoral conversation we prayed together, celebrated the sacrament of the sick and she received Holy Communion. Ann had not spoken to her only brother since she was hospitalised. I connected Ann to her brother and they had a conversation which turned out to be her last as she died peacefully a short time later.

On Good Friday, I visited Mary a patient I had met on many occasions during her treatment for cancer. She recognised my voice behind the protective mask and goggles. Having listened to her fears and sense of isolation I was able to connect her by Zoom to her husband and two sons. This was the last time they were able to see and hear their Mother's voice. After her death the nurse and I placed a wooden cross in her hand as we prayed for her.

In these times you often only have one pastoral encounter and these are 'never to be forgotten'.

I am also developing *Keepsake Hearts*. A pair of small matching handcrafted hearts are respectfully offered as a keepsake to an individual or a family on the death of their loved one. One Keepsake Heart is placed with the remains of their loved while the matching heart is sent to the bereaved family. The handcrafted hearts are made by a group of Volunteers." *Fr. John Kelly*

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*



The Easter Gospels

The Gospels that we will be listening to over the 50 days of Easter might seem to turn the clock back by visiting Jesus' pre-resurrection. But we remind ourselves that we read our scriptures at Mass not primarily for their historical interest or novelty, but for their ever-present sacramental value for each generation.

Mass in Swords/Drynam

ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED until further notice.

BUT I have installed a web camera and will be saying a daily Mass at 5.00pm & morning prayer at 10.00am if you care to tune in. A lot of parishes including Brackenstown have Mass at 10.00am. River Valley has Mass at 7.00pm and therefore I have rightly or wrongly chosen 5.00pm. As I have been writing in the past few newsletters, for those who cannot attend Mass and receive Holy Communion there is a prayer below which may be said. A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

"And all will be well and all manner of things shall be well" – Julian of Norwich

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

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things
and I desire to receive You in my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You



Amen

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently

Noreen McKittrick Glasmore Park
Aidan McGlynn Ballyboughal (late of Carlton Court)
Christopher Larmon



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock was due to take place this weekend. We're delighted to let you know that our virtual pilgrimage to Knock will now take place this **Sunday 26th April.**

The programme is as follows:

2.30pm: Rosary
3.00pm: Pilgrimage mass celebrated by the Rector of Knock Shrine Fr Richard Gibbons
3.45pm: Benediction
4.00pm: Virtual visit to the Apparition Chapel
4.15pm: Opportunity to place a petition, light a candle or have a mass said online.
You can join the pilgrimage from this link: <https://www.knockshrine.ie/watch-live.html>

Parish Finances

At this time, we must still try to maintain our Churches so we would ask that parishioners who contribute via the family planned giving envelopes to please drop them into the candle shrine safes in the church. Also, this might be a time to consider donating by Direct Debit. Please contact the Parish Office [@stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) and a form can be posted out to you. There is also an on-line payment facility for the Common Fund and Easter Dues on the front page of the Parish website swords-parish.com Click on "Donate", on home page

Third Sunday of Easter

We come to Easter faith by acknowledging the hungers of the heart ("our own hope had been"), by searching the scriptures ("our hearts burning within us"), by holding on to the story of the first disciples and witness of the women, by the Eucharist ("the breaking of the bread") and by sharing our faith ("they told their story"). Is there more? As the story starts, he stops them. Towards the end of the story, they stop him from walking out of their lives, perhaps for ever. The moment of desire leads to the moment of recognition and a life changing encounter.

Prayer - Open our ears, O Lord, to the words of Scripture that our hearts may burn within us. Open our eyes that we may recognise you in the breaking of the bread. Open our hearts to share with others the faith we have received that "we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Rm 1:12). (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

- The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com.
- A digital copy of *Sunday's missalette*, which includes the readings is now available on the Parish website (home page) swords-parish.com
- A digital copy of *The Sacred Heart Messenger* is now available on the Parish website (news and events page) swords-Parish.com
- There is a link on Parish website for messages from Pope Francis (Vatican News) (news and events page). swords-parish.com).