

can make also. He says, 'we cannot just say that young people are the future of our world. They are its present; even now, they are helping to enrich it' (64). He goes on to say that: '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' (139). A young person has the ability to do great things, to push forward and reach outwards. As Catholics, we need to listen to the words of the Gospel of Mark (16:15): 'Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.'

Living in Harmony with the Earth - In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that we are stewards of God's creation. We are simply looking after it for each other and for future generations. 'Christian stewardship means caring for the planet and all the life on it that God has created. It means working to make sure that all the goods of the earth are distributed in a fair and just way. Solidarity with others, especially with people who are poor, is the fruit of stewardship.' We are called to examine our own lifestyles and ask ourselves the questions: 'How do I care for the planet?'; 'How do I care for life?'; 'What part do I play in the distribution of the earth's goods?'; 'Am I fair?'; 'Am I just?'; 'In what way do I show my solidarity with others?'; 'In what way do I show my solidarity with the poor?' While there is a call on governments and countries to drastically change the way in which we use the earth's resources, we have to start with ourselves. We must change our ways in order to ensure the survival of the earth. Pope Francis says, 'the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment ... If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society' (LS, 208).

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



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living in Harmony with God's Creation – cont'd

"Save us, O Lord our God!"

Newsletter Sunday 2nd February 2020



As I said in last week's newsletter the resources provided for Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 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. The theme is subdivided into sections. Last week I wrote about **Living in harmony with God**. This week in drawing from the resource (#CSW2020), I will write about

Living in Harmony with our Neighbours
Living in Harmony with all Generations
Living in Harmony with the Earth

The overall 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.

Living in Harmony with our Neighbours - In *Laudato Si'*, we are called to care for our common home. Pope Francis highlights the fact that we all have a responsibility to care for the earth for future generations. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society.' We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves. In 2019, Pope Francis opened the Season of Creation on 1 September. This continued until 4 October, which is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. In his address on 1 September he stated that we need a change that will 'free us from the slavery of consumerism'. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and pretend that the world as we know it is not changing. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby says that 'the outlook of climate change is not potentially bad ... it is potentially fatal for the most fragile countries and regions on earth and for the billions of people who live in them.' We can help, one person at a time, one step at a time. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to make 'courageous decisions' and undertake 'prophetic actions' and for political leaders to have a real commitment 'for directing the planet toward life, not death'.

Living in Harmony with all Generations - we celebrate the role that older people play in the lives of younger people. And vice versa! This reciprocity is a very special relationship, the benefits of which, knows no bounds. In 2 Timothy 1:5, St Paul says 'I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded, now lives in you also.' As young people, we learn a lot from the older people in our lives. Very often, the things we value most are the values that have been handed down from our parents, or our grandparents. In *Amoris Laetitia* (191), Pope Francis reminds us that a society 'will move forward if it respects the wisdom of the elderly.' But in *Christus Vivit* Pope Francis points out the contribution that young people

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm John & Bernadette Nulty(An)
 Helen Clarke (1st An)

Sun 8.30am Molly & Paddy O'Keefe & daughter Jacqueline(An)

Sun 11.15am Desmond Walsh(An)
 Joe Humphries (An)



At our Masses this Sunday we also remember:Madge O'Hara, Angela Hall, June Cantwell, Lisa Lee, Shane Keating, Lisa Lee

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Thomas & Eleanor Greany

Mon 10.00am Daniel Phelan

Tues 8.00am Dominic Kiely

Tues 10.00am No 10.00am Mass

Wed 8.00am Bridie Toner

Wed 10.00am John & Eileen Shiel

Thurs 8.00am Liz & Jim Connolly

Thurs 10.00am Bill Hilliard

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

Sat 10.1.00am Mass for the Sick

Next Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Ben Geoghegan (1st An)

Audrey Harkin

Nancy Savage (1st An)

Sun 8.30am James Rooney

Sun 11.15am Brian O'Connor

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

Mass for First Friday will be celebrated on Friday 7th February at 9.20am, in Church of the Visitation Drynam



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*



Sacrament of Confirmation – Scoil an Duinninigh

Next Tuesday 4th February, the cailini and buachailli from Scoil an Duinninigh will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. in St. Colmcille's Swords. On behalf of the Parish, I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days. I trust and pray that the families involved will have a lovely day. ***There will be no 10.00am mass in Swords this day***

First Penance

This week is a special week for the boys of our Parish School as they celebrate their First Penance on Thursday 6th February at 1.30pm. I thank the teachers, Ms. Mills and Ms. Aherne for the preparatory work that they are undertaking and the parents for presenting their children for this Sacrament.

Confirmation Mass – St. Colmcille Schools

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their second 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.

The Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas

We are blessing candles at this Mass. If you brought candles with you, please leave 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

World Day of the Sick 2020:

The World Day of the Sick Seminar will take place on **Saturday, February 8th from 9.30am to 1.00pm** in the Newtown Parish Pastoral Centre, Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin. This year's theme is on *Hope in the Face of Suicide*. The World Day of the Sick Mass will take place on Sunday 9th February in Church of the Guardian Angels, Newtontownpark Avenue, Blackrock. For further information and booking please contact Trish Conway on : 087 6220349. ***Regarding the Mass, you can just go along***

World day for Consecrated Life

In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day – We thank and pray especially for Srs. Margaret and Mary and Winnie and of course Sr. Patrick and the Christian Brothers in Emmaus. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Tuesday 4th February.

There will be no 10.00am Mass on this day as the Parish is celebrating the Sacrament of confirmation at 11.00am.

Parish Mass of healing and Anointing for the sick

February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is when the Church celebrates the 'World Day of the Sick'. On **Saturday 8th February at 11am** the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick in St. Colmcille's. All parishioners are welcome. It is an ideal opportunity to reach out to a housebound neighbour or a neighbour who has no means of transport and bring them to the church for this celebration.

'The World Day of the Sick' is a call once again to all, to see in the face of their brother or sister who is sick the face of Christ who, suffering, dying and rising, brought salvation to humanity.' *Saint John Paul II*

Dublin Diocese Spring Liturgy Seminar

1. 2020 Vision - Mary Clavin will offer refreshing insights on the celebration of the liturgy. Mary is full of infectious enthusiasm for the spirit of renewal inspired by Vatican II. Decades later there is much still to do.

2. 'Let Us Go To God's House' - Fr. Damian McNeice will bring you on a visual tour of Church architecture through the ages. History helps us see how we have inherited the style of liturgical space and its various components. No passports necessary but fasten your seat belts.

3. 'Reading With Authority' - Good reading at liturgy depends on both external and internal preparation. How can we better proclaim the word of God? How can we read 'with authority'? Donal Neary S.J., formerly parish priest of Gardiner St, and presently editor of Messenger, will lead a workshop to explore these aspects.

4. 'Supporting Women and Families' - The Trócaire theme for Lent 2020 is "women around the world struggling to protect their families" and the two focused countries are Kenya and Honduras. Colm Hogan and Anna Keegan from Trócaire's Church Outreach Office will guide you through their mission and resources.

5. 'Blinded By Your Grace' - Fr. Pat O'Donoghue will suggest ways of celebrating God's mercy during the season of Lent by creating various prayer moments and services. Sunglasses will come in handy.

***The Seminar will be held in Clonliffe on Saturday 15th February from 9.30am to 1.30pm.
If you are interested in going please leave your name with Colette.***

Saints in the Church's calendar

Feast of St. Blaise – Monday 3rd February

Throats will be blessed at the 8am and 10am Mass this Monday 3rd February to mark the Feast of St. Blaise.

Blessing of Throats

The blessing of St. Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and love for us and for the sick. Using two crossed and unlighted candles, blessed on the memorial of St. Blaise or on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the minister touches the throat of each person saying, 'Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from all ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father....'

