

So what about purgatory? Why, on this day, should we focus on the dead? To begin with, let's look at the word "purgatory." This comes from the old Latin word "purgare," which means "to cleanse" or "to purge." So you can think of purgatory as a time of cleansing or final purification in preparation to spend eternity in the presence of God. In purgatory, as the Catechism explains, the faithful - that's right, those who are destined for heaven - "achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030)

The Catechism goes on to say: "The Church gives the name Purgatory to this **final purification of the elect**, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. (Source: Catholic Online)

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Dec members of Legion of Mary

Mon 10.00am In Honour of the Holy Souls

James, Kathleen & Joseph Salmon

Tues 8.00am Brid Kissane

Tues 10.00 Michael Savage

Wed 8.00am In Honour of the Holy Souls

Wed 10.00am Maura Donovan

Thurs 8.00am Michael & Kathleen Ferris

Thurs 10.00am Martin Bradley

Fri 8.00am Greg Kane

Fri 10.00am Holy Souls

Sat 6.30pm Cathal & Mary O'Toole

Margaret & Thomas Comber

Sun 8.30am Mary Flynn

Sun 11.15am Anthony Dunne

Leo Watson (MM)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

Works will finish shortly on the door widening, additional concreting and rails to comply with our Fire Regulation Certificate.

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

‘Shema’, the Hebrew word for ‘listen’ became the name for the great prayer of the Jews. Later on a homely custom grew: the words of this particular verse were written down and hung in a prominent place beside a special door. Thus every person going in or coming out would have an opportunity to see it and to touch it and, by letting what it said sink deep into their minds and hearts, to grow and hopefully become the kind of person it implied. THE PRAYER – ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart’ (Deut 6:4-6) (Source: *Glenstal Sunday Missal*)

Walk of Light 2018, “Encounter- Engage – Empower”

For the 14th year people from all walks of life are coming together for the Walk of Life, expressing our hope and prayer for light in dark times. This year's theme is “Encounter- Engage – Empower”. Join us on an ecumenical inter-church journey from St. Ann's Church, Dawson St., on to St. Teresa's, Clarendon Street and ending at Adelaide Rd. Presbyterian Church on Sunday 25th November from 4.00pm - 6.30pm

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Month of the Holy Souls

“Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!”

Newsletter Sunday 4th November 2018



The custom of remembering the faithful departed goes back to the early days of the church, when their names were posted in the church so they could be remembered. As early as the sixth century, monasteries held special days of remembrance for the dead from their community and by the ninth century they were commemorating all the faithful departed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, citing Pope St Gregory the Great, explains: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven."

"The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. (Cf. 1 Cor 3:15; 1 Pet 1:7).The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent.

The days of commemoration varied although, over time, most began to use November 2. In the fifteenth century, the Dominicans began offering three Masses on the Feast of All Souls. Then, in 1748, Pope Benedict XIV approved this practice, which caused it to quickly spread throughout Spain, Portugal and into Latin America.

The outbreak of World War I - the "war to end all wars" - provided Pope Benedict XV with a strong incentive to further define this feast day and he gave his priests permission to offer three Masses that day. He saw that it was hard to remember all the war dead, especially due to the number of churches that had been destroyed. The Pope instructed his clergy that the three Masses should be offered as follows: one for the particular intention of the day, one for the faithful departed and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Mexico, other Latin American countries and even other cultures observe the Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*), covering both All Saints and All Souls. On November 1 they honour departed children and adults are remembered on November 2. Spending the entire day at cemeteries, people build small shrines, with food, beverages, photos and other keepsakes of loved ones.

While it is good to remember the departed faithful as they were in this life during the Feast of All Souls, we must be sure that our main focus remains on their time of preparation for heaven in purgatory.

Purgatory - what a strange and scary sounding word to some. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misunderstanding concerning this doctrine and what it means for us as Christians. Some have thought that we "go" to purgatory and then we are judged whether we go to heaven or hell. Others see this as a mini-hell for those who didn't quite make it all the way into heaven. Still others see purgatory as a second chance after death.

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 Classes

The Parish based Confirmation Programme begins next week-end. Too often Confirmation is seen as a 'rite of passage' from the church. The Catholic Christian faith offers a powerful support to young people as they struggle with the great pressures of modern life. But they need every encouragement to hold on to and cherish their faith. The school and the Parish are making special efforts to prepare for and to celebrate our young people's Confirmation. In order to begin to understand the Sacrament of Confirmation they and indeed ourselves must first understand what it means to belong to a Community of Faith, and that takes time. That in part is what this Parish initiative is about. 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. To that end next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the **Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass** as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I know you will make them welcome and we look forward to seeing them and praying with.

Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-10th November, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 3. Why not come along – it lasts about 20 minutes and you will be praying with the Parish Community

Diary 2019

The booking of Mass intentions for **2019** can begin next weekend of November 10th/11th when the Diary will be available. Please note as there is no morning Mass the diary will open at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass.

Fundraising Committee

This Committee will meet on Monday 5th November at 11.00am in the Parochial House

Mass of Remembrance

On Tuesday 6th November at 7.30pm, the Parish will celebrate Mass to remember and pray for all parishioners and friends who died during the past year. During this Mass each person will be remembered by name. All welcome especially family and friends.

*If a family member of friend died **during this past year** but whose funeral was held in another parish and you would like their name called out. Please leave with Colette in the Parish Office.*



World Meeting of Families

Next weekend a national collection to help defray the costs of the recent World Meeting of Families will take place, it will replace Share Collection

Altar List of the Dead

Thank you to all who have returned their altar list of the dead and **your very generous offerings included**. If you haven't yet taken an envelope, there are some in the book racks at the back of the church. The Mass is 'offered' for all names on these lists on the First Friday of every month and the lists will be in the Sanctuary area in front of the altar for the month of November.

St. Vincent de Paul

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

Diocesan Priesthood - Vocation Exploration Retreat:

The National Vocations Office is running an overnight "**Come & See**" retreat for Young men aged between 18 – 40 in Mount St. Anne's in Killenard, near Portlinton. Starting at 6pm on Fri 23rd and concluding at 4pm on Saturday 24th November. Maybe you know some man in your parish that may be interested in exploring what is involved in becoming a priest and would like to find out more, without commitment or obligation. Perhaps if you do, you could bring this to his attention? For further information, email Deacon Eric Cooney in the National Vocations Office on: info@vocations.ie

The Priory Institute - Study Theology Online

Open day November 10th from 9.30am - 2.30pm. Meet current students and teaching staff and attend a lecture in theology. Is this for you? For further information contact enquiries@prioryinstitute.com www.prioryinstitute.co. 01 4048124

Saints for the coming week

All the Saints of Ireland – Tuesday 6th November. Ireland, especially in the early Christian centuries, was known as an isle of saints and scholars. Many of these combined pastoral care with observance of the monastic life. The Irish also did much to bring the faith to other parts of Europe and, if we are to believe the story of St. Brendan, even further afield.

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica –Friday 9th November,

The Church of St John Lateran in Rome is, 'Mother and Head of all the churches of the City and the World'. It is the cathedral church of the Bishop of Rome, and was called 'St John' after the two monasteries once attached, dedicated to St. John the Divine and St. John the Baptist. It is, however, dedicated to the Most Holy Saviour.

St. Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the church – Saturday 10th November, became Pope in 440 and died 461. He taught the two natures, human and divine, of Christ at the Council of Chalcedon, 451, and the primacy of the See of Peter