

When Churches were reopened for public worship for the summer period, numbers were low and the demographics of those who returned were different. Younger faces were noticeably missing.

The numbers who will attend public worship in the foreseeable future will be significantly lower. It would be foolish to imagine that many of those who do not return to worship will not find themselves also drifting away from wider bonds with Church life. The post-pandemic Church will look significantly different to the Church we traditionally knew.

I believe that the extraordinary charism of Saint Laurence O'Toole can serve as a valid model of renewal of the Church in Dublin in the coming years. His personal way of life made him a respected and forceful voice of witness in a time of cultural uprooting. We need a Church that can speak the message of Jesus to a world that is searching and uncertain about faith, and be listened to not because of self-proclaimed status, but through the quality of its care and vision and faith". (continued next week) **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass through the Parish webcam

Sat 6.30pm Richard Dillon & deceased members of Byrne Family

Sun 8.30am Kathleen Moore

Sun 11.15am Morty Doyle
Antony Dunne



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Henry Bates

Mon 10.00am In Honour of the Holy Souls

Tues 10.00am Michael Reilly

Tues 10.00am Peter Higgins
Ger Griffin

Wed 10.00am Joseph Noone

Wed 10.00am Martina Phillips

Thurs 10.00am In Honour of the Holy Souls

Thurs 10.00am Olive Keenan

Fri 10.00am Sr Helen Fitzpatrick

Fri 10.00am Joe O'Neill

Sat 10.00am Jack Killeen

Sat 6.30pm Margaret Pawley & Ellen
& Terry Finnegan

Sun 8.30am Gerri McLoughlin

Sun 11.15am Patrick & Bridget Lenehan

Church of the Visitation Drynam - The Visitation of the BVM

Our church in Drynam will continue to stay closed during this period adhering to HSE guidelines. If you wish, Mass from St. Colmcille's can be accessed on the Parish Webcam as per the New Mass Times notice in this newsletter.



Young Church Dublin

The Young Church Dublin have started a connected group for Young Adults (20's 30's) to gather online. We meet every Wednesday, from 8.00-9.00pm. We will have time of catch up, reflection on Scripture, chat in small discussion groups and enjoy time in prayer together. It provides an opportunity to connect in with other young adults in a community of faith. If you would like to join us email: st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie

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



Feast of Christ the King

The religious culture of Ireland is at a crossroads

"How worthy is the lamb who was slain..to him belong glory and power for ever and ever."

Newsletter Sunday 22nd November 2020



On the Feast of St. Laurence O'Toole, 14th November last the Archbishop delivered a homily which is a good reflection of the Church in Ireland these days and what type of Church is likely to emerge after the 'Covid crisis'. I will reprint extracts from it below:

"We gather to celebrate the Feast of Saint Laurence O'Toole, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Dublin. We come together to pray for all those who in our day have responsibility in this diocese for spreading that treasure of the revelation of Jesus.

There is a sense in which, outside the Archdiocese of Dublin, Saint Laurence O'Toole is a forgotten Irish Saint. Many of the more popular Irish Saints are linked with local culture, or with the Irish monastic missionary period, or were martyrs. Laurence worked within a different cultural situation but one that is remarkably relevant to the current situation of the Church in Ireland.

The Dublin to which Laurence was appointed was in the midst of great cultural change. The dominant Norse political culture was being replaced through a Norman invasion and internal conflict among the Irish chieftains. Dublin was a city marked by violence. Hunger, poverty, and vulnerability were the order of the day.

Today the religious culture of Ireland and especially of Dublin is also at a crossroads. It is not the crossroads of martyrdom or oppression. Certainly there is hostility towards the Church from some quarters. The current change in religious culture is inspired more by indifference, uncertainty and at times voluntary rejection. The fact that there are in Ireland today more civil weddings than religious marriage ceremonies is not by imposition. The fact that, according to the last census, "no religion" is the second largest population group after Roman Catholics is the fruit of choice.

In some cases, cultural change may be the fruit of disillusionment at how the Church is perceived. The recent report on the former Cardinal McCarrick will have convinced many that the governance structures of the Church have again failed victims. Nearer home, the victims of what was a harsh, authoritarian Irish Church in the past rightfully continue to haunt the Church of today seeking answers. Their hurt will not be healed simply by saying that things are different now.

I believe that the challenges of Church life due to the current pandemic are pointing the way towards another challenging moment for the Church. Many whose attendance at Church services before the pandemic was fragile will never return to public worship.

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**



Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

For the next few weeks during this Level 5 lockdown the Parish will host a special liturgy every Tuesday and Thursday Evening at **7.00pm**. It began on Tuesday 27th October. The format will be:

- A decade of the Rosary followed by Prayer calling on Our Lady's Protection
- A Reading of the Pope's latest Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" – On Fraternity and Social Friendship
- The Night Prayer of the Church

This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam

The webcam can be accessed through the Parish website, www.swords-parish.com

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 Webcam morning Mass until we come out of Level 5 lockdown.

Altar List of the Dead

These lists are now available at the back of the Church. The new lists will be placed in front of the altar on Monday 2nd November – The Feast of All Souls. All Masses on the First Friday of the month will be offered for the names on the Altar List of the Dead. The completed envelopes can be returned to the Sacristy or the Parish Office.

Thank You to all who have returned their envelopes. I have received all the envelopes pushed under the sacristy door or left in the safes in the Church

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

In this the month of the Holy Souls we remember in a special way our beloved dead. The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group extend our deepest sympathy to ALL bereaved people, especially those who have suffered bereavement during the Covid pandemic. We offer free and confidential support. If you would like to talk to a member please phone Bridget - 085 2812985 - week Sunday 22nd to Saturday 28th November - Please phone from 6-8pm or you can email the parish office: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com. You can also find information on <https://www.bethany.ie>. It's good to talk. Do not grieve alone or unaided. "Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted"

November Mass for Deceased-2020

On Thursday last, 12th November we celebrated our annual Remembrance Mass. It was different this year insofar as it was live streamed, no one being allowed in the Church due to the Covid pandemic. All who suffered bereavement during this past year received a written invitation as is the norm, but this year it was to view and participate in the Mass via the Parish Webcam. As with previous years all the names were announced and a candle was lit for each one of them.

The beautiful Liturgy of Remembrance after the Gospel was accompanied by uplifting music and song. It gave all present space to remember their loved ones who died during the past year and perhaps provided some comfort. I thank everyone involved in the preparation and participation of this liturgy.

I thank Morgan Crowley – Choir director and the choir members that evening: Helen Dignam; Maurice Kealy and Jim Daly. I thank the Parish Sisters: Margaret Ryan; Winnie Lusk; and Mary McLoughney and Sacristan Jeanette Devine. I also thank Colette Stokes the Parish Secretary who keeps the records and prepared the letters of invitation and the inserts and I thank Avril O'Reilly who lovingly prepared the 'Name Board' in front of the altar. Lastly I thank my fellow priests, Fr. John Collins and Canon Pat Shiel.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Bethany Bereavement Team whose continued commitment and dedication to this ministry is a credit to themselves and the Parish. They have been providing a telephone service during the current pandemic.

The Feast of Christ the King

"King" is a foundational metaphor in the Bible, which in ordinary usage suggests power and glory. But even in the ancient biblical tradition, there are two great modifications. According to an Old Testament vision, a king is meant to be a shepherd to his people, a true shepherd who cares for and who knows and even loves his sheep. According to a New Testament vision, Jesus our king rules paradoxically by loving service, humility and the gift of himself. This example and teaching of Jesus has lost none of its power today.

Prayer - Jesus, King of the Universe, may your kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven. Grant us the grace that we may be your loyal subjects. You alone have the words of eternal life. Draw us to you so that by following in your footsteps and renouncing ourselves, we may seek only your holy will. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

November

We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord.

The Sunday Obligation

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