

The defeat of the virus depends on all of us. Every man, woman and child is called to respond with responsibility. It is important that we all follow the instructions of the public health authorities. No one should feel themselves exempt from these indications. No one should take risks or take short cuts thinking that I have a right to do whatever I wish regardless of our common concerns.

However you can follow all the restrictions and miss the point. The spirit in which some might follow restrictions could be one of self-centred isolationism. It could be that attitude described in the parable of the Good Samaritan, of these who in the face of human need decide to feel safe and simply pass by. The Samaritan on the other hand allowed himself to be overcome by compassion and care for the wounded man. A culture of care is the law of the Samaritan.

As Christian believers, we are called to understand how caring is an essential dimension of being truly human. God created the universe as an expression of his love and he cares for his creation in love. We are called to be bearers of that love through the way we live.

Sinfulness destroys a culture of care. Sinfulness is not simply breaking rules; it is a failure to love and to see what true love requires of us. In the first book of the Bible, we see how jealousy brought division and hatred. When Cain is accused of murdering his brother his only reply is: "Am I my brother's keeper". He is not even going to become involved. When we overlook our obligation to care and protect our brothers, then a road of evil opens out before us.

Today we realise perhaps more than ever how much we are all interconnected. An interconnected world needs to be humanised through solidarity. Our world requires a culture of care. In this context, we keep in our prayers those who will guide the responsibilities of Ireland's membership of the UN Security Council to foster international peace and care for the marginalised.

For the Christian, a culture of care is one in which we care for each other not just in doing things but in being bearers of the mission of our God of light and peace, even in situations of uncertainty and anxiety.

In our Gospel reading, we encounter Mary who hears the words of the Shepherds and is astonished by them. She ponders a future she could not have imagined. She ponders all this in her heart and trusts in the God who has always been faithful.

Mary is the model for all Christians whose faith and trust in the God of love and light opens a future of hope. We believers a culture of care can touch the hearts of the troubled enabling them to experience the shining and gracious face of the Lord and attain his peace.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass & 8.30am

Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass via the Parish webcam

Sat 6.30pm Patrick, Annie & Eileen O'Rourke

Sun 8.30am Daphne Lynch

Sun 11.15am Peter O'Neill



Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Fr John and members of PPC would like to wish all Parishioners a Happy and Peaceful new year

Sunday Mass can be viewed through the Parish webcam during Level 5 restrictions



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



The Baptism of the Lord

“A culture of care as a path to peace”

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”

Newsletter Sunday 10th January 2021



As we begin 2021, my first newsletter for this year will be the Archbishop's homily delivered on January 1st, the 'Feast of Mary, the Mother of God' and also World Day of Peace. It captures these days and this coming Year, in my opinion, very well.

“We begin our New Year in a climate of concern and insecurity about our future. Many live in fear and apprehension and rightly so. Many are tempted to see the future only in terms of gloom and distress and hopelessness. Many find the situation so stressful that it becomes a burden to their mental health. As believers, we must ask: “Where do we find a source of hope and meaning as we look forward with concern to a new year”.

We can receive a first jolt of hope when we reflect on the words of our first reading. The God of hope will bless us and open a path of light and hope. “May the Lord bless you and keep you, and make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace”.

In the Catholic Church, we celebrate today as the *World Day of Peace*. Pope Paul VI initiated the *World Day of Peace* to foster dialogue between the message of the Gospel of Jesus and the common aspirations of all the people of the world as each New Year begins. It was not an attempt to impose a religious point of view but to show how the content of the message of Jesus is one that can be understood by men and women of any nation or worldview and be made real for the good of all. Reflecting on the word of God and its portrayal of the God who always remains faithful to his people, can open a flash of hope in hearts and lives and help us to cope with the burdens of these days.

The theme of this year's *World Day of Peace* chosen by Pope Francis is “**A culture of care as a path to peace**”. It is a reminder to all of us that the peace that we desire for our own hearts, for our own communities and indeed for our world will only come when a logic of personal interest and positioning and the logic of power in relationships is replaced by a logic of giving and caring.

We are grateful to all those who in our society have played a vital role in looking after the victims of the virus and provide community support. We are grateful for the scientific research that underpins a deeper understanding of the virus and how it works. We are grateful to all who work for the production of safe vaccine. We are grateful to those who spontaneously and selflessly provide help and comfort to their neighbours.

The message of Pope Francis stresses another dimension. The Pope stresses that we are called not simply to protect, but to care. We have to develop a real culture of care. The call to a culture of care is a call to all and not just to those whose profession or calling in life is to care.

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**



2021 Level 5 Liturgy/Prayer Service

For the next 5 weeks during this Level 5 lockdown 2021 the Parish will host a special liturgy every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** Evening at **7.00pm** beginning Tuesday 5th January
The format will be:

A decade of the Rosary followed by Prayers

In this challenging time; For those who care for the sick; Our Lady of Good Health

- 10 minutes of Spiritual Reading – “In a Landscape Redrawn”, by Bishop Donal Murray written in 2017
- The Night Prayer of the Church

This Liturgy/Prayer Service can be viewed through the Parish Webcam and should last about 30 minutes

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

Happy New Year

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 peaceful and happy New Year

Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am Brian Owen

Mon 10.00am Thanksgiving to Jesus Divine Mercy & Sacred Heart

Tues 10.00am Aileen Mac Loughlin

Tues 10.00am Dec members of Gallagher Family

Wed 10.00am Michael Mac Artain

Wed 10.00am Francis Loughran

Thurs 10.00am Tony McDonnell

Thurs 10.00am Peter Harford

Fri 10.00am Mary Walsh & Family

Fri 10.00am Joan Fitzgerald

Sat 6.30pm Michael Raftery

Sun 8.30am Special Intention

Sun 11.15am Lilian O'Reilly

• Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church

• 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

Mass Times during the Lockdown

Mass is 'On-line' only and can be viewed through the Parish webcam
Mass Times are Monday to Saturday at 10.00am. Sunday at 11.15am
Webcam address: www.swords-parish.com

The Baptism of the Lord

Today the Church celebrates that point in Jesus' life when he went public, so to speak. He began to reveal who he was. There is another revelation in today's liturgy. It is that God is Trinity. At his baptism when Jesus the Son came up out of the water the Spirit descended on him and the voice of the Father declared that Jesus was his Son. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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 speak in confidence to a member please email the parish office stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com - leaving your name and phone number. Your message will be forwarded to Bethany. From Sunday 10th January to Saturday 16th, please contact -Denise 0860610463 after 6pm.. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Gerard Wash

Kathleen McDaid

John Cawley

Great Forest

Dublin Road

St Cronan's Court

Ordinary Time

We are now in what the Church calls Ordinary Time. The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

• Planned Giving

New planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Sacristy

• 1st and 2nd Collections

The Church is closed for public Mass but is opened for private prayer. At the door of the Church there are pre-printed envelopes marked 1st and 2nd Collection. You are invited to put your offering in the envelopes and then place in the wall safes or under the Sacristy door.