

We were created for happiness. It is the purpose of our whole being and we spend our lives searching and striving to attain it. Somehow this happiness seems to escape us as we go searching after it in the wrong places. Our greatest mistake is to equate joy with pleasure and to look for it in material things. We can buy pleasure and it will cost us dearly, but all the money in the world cannot purchase happiness. Christian joy is something deeper and richer than the smile and laughter upon a happy face. It comes from an awareness that God is with us and produces a contentment and an inner peace that cannot be taken from us. Friendship with God is the source of Christian joy. No trials can drown this joy since it is born of faith. It is a characteristic of the soul that cannot be easily described but should be evident in the life of the believer. (Source: *Desmond Knowles-Voicing a thought on Sunday*)  
**Fr. Michael Carey**

**Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass & through the Parish webcam**

**Sat 6.30pm** Patrick Barry Jnr  
**Sun 8.30am** Sr Patrick  
**Sun 11.15am** Fr Roy Drumney



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Jim Cherry	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Fr Jim Butler	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Ann Smith	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Health Intention	6.30pm O'Loughlin & McNally Families
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Billy Staunton	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Fiona Burke	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Christopher & Carmel Morgan	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Peggy Dillon	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Peggy Collins
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Florrie O'Keefe	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Des Becton
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Roger Grosso	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)**  
 Sunday Mass Times in Drynam will continue at 10:00AM and 11:30AM for the Irish Mass subject to the restriction in numbers. Next Sunday, 20th December, we will have a Service of Reconciliation at the 10:00AM Mass.



**1st and 2nd Collections**

At every Mass, weekday and weekend there will be collection boxes situated around the Church. If you cannot make the Sunday Mass, but are able to go to the weekday Mass, you can make your weekly contribution during the weekday Mass. Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

**The Sunday Obligation**

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

**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**



3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**The Joy of Advent**

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice"*  
**Newsletter Sunday 13th December 2020**



Third Sunday of Advent

**Should I go to Mass on Christmas Day?** That is the question!

Everyone who wants to go to Mass is grappling with this question as are parishes. Our Parish Covid Committee met to discuss this and the consensus was that the Church should be open for Christmas Masses and that despite the fact that St. Colmcille's is limited to 50 persons (Including Priest, Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist) and Drynam is limited to 35 persons. First and foremost I sincerely thank the volunteers who have agreed to steward and sanitise the Churches on Christmas Eve/Day. The Bishops of Ireland have answered the question as follows:

*"Clearly it will be impossible for our usual large congregations to assemble for Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. We wish to remind Catholics that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days remains suspended during the pandemic. But Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Christmas Masses will also be widely available over webcam and we strongly encourage families to "tune in" from the "domestic churches" of their living rooms and join with those who are gathering in their local churches in welcoming the birth of the Christ-child.*

*It is possible to experience the spiritual richness of this special season in many ways. Our homes can become "little churches" where we invite the Christ-child in. The age-old tradition of having a Christmas crib in the home and gathering there as a family to pray or to sing a carol will be especially meaningful this year. We also invite families or "household bubbles" to pay a visit to their local church at some time during the twelve days to offer a Christmas prayer at the crib and pray together for their families and for those particularly impacted by the pandemic".*

The joy of Advent shines forth with an inspiring message of hope and encouragement urging us to rejoice and be happy because the Lord is near. (Hence the title of this third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday). What is more, it tells us that joy is basic to being Christian and our vacation is to radiate joy. Experience bears it out that rejoicing is not always the hallmark of a Christian. All too frequently, Christianity has been associated with sadness. Many of us are more familiar with the gospel message of carrying the cross than of its abiding characteristic of joy. We tend to think of Jesus as the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, yet as he concluded his ministry and was about to leave, he says: 'These things I have spoken to you that my joy might be in you and your joy be complete.' (Jn.15:11). While there is hardship and suffering in the life of Jesus there is a joy which is compatible with pain.

## 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**



### First Holy Communions

Congratulations to the girls and their families from St. Colmcille's GNS who received their First Holy Communion last Thursday and Friday – it was a great occasion! I thank the School for their great work - the teachers: Ms Deirdre Aherne; Ms Eimear Boyle and Ms Ann Mills and Principal Ms. Karen Burke Logue

### Confessions

There are Confessions on Christmas Eve from 10.30am till 12noon and from 3.00pm till 4.00pm. I will also hear Confessions on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 6.00pm to 7.00pm**

### Should I go to Mass on Christmas Eve/Day?

Please see the front of the newsletter. *Christmas is about more than just one day. Families are welcome to attend Mass at some point during the twelve days from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Bear in mind that in Drynam there is a car park and people can receive Holy Communion in their cars.*

### • Carol Service – online only

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This will be a **webcam only** event BUT Morgan has put a lot of work into it and it will be beautiful. If you cannot watch it on the day our Webcam provider will record it so that it can be viewed at any time

- 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 10am morning Mass

### • Christmas Cards and Timetable

These are at the doors of the Church. Please take one home with you and if you can, please take some for your neighbours

### • 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

### • Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them **BUT** bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with you.

### • Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

## Society of St. Vincent de Paul-CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place THIS WEEKEND. It will be the second collection replacing Share.

Some information:

- This is the First Year that the Swords Conference has to apply to Head Office for Funding. Normally they generate enough funds locally
- The elderly have had an especially tough time during the Covid Pandemic and Swords/Drynam VdP would like to give them a 'bit extra' this year
- Last year 109 families benefitted
- This year, as well as last year's families there are **new beneficiaries**. People who lost their job or furloughed and now living on the Covid payment

You can also make a donation in the following ways:

- Go to [svp.ie/donate](http://svp.ie/donate)
- Call 0818 176 176
- Blue Envelopes at the back of the Church – these can be left in the Sacristy to be collected by the Swords VdP

### Advent Wreath 3rd CANDLE – (pink) THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY

– The angels sang a message of JOY! "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" (Luke 2:7-15)

### JESSE TREE-week 3

**The hammer of Joseph:** Joseph became Mary's husband, and looked after Mary and Jesus. We thank him for the part he played in the life of Jesus

**The Sun:** Just as the natural sun gives light and life to all upon whom its rays fall so Christ, the Rising Dawn, dispels darkness and brings eternal life and light.

**The Lily:** The Lily represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. From earliest Christian days she has been called blessed. Her example of motherhood, the training she gave her child, her patience and love, the way she encouraged Jesus, and the manner in which she bore her later grief-all this has influenced all who love her.

### 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 talk to a member please phone Terri 8404323 Sunday 13th to Saturday 19th December or you can email the parish office: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com). <https://www.bethany.ie>