

could end up being used simply to talk about ourselves and our internal structures, rather than reaching out with a renewed sense of what the courage of missionary discipleship involves. O'Toole was a fragile man - he died at only 52 years of age - whose strength came from the depth of his faith. He never lost his sense of courage and vision. Our challenge is great but we can address it if we keep our sense of courage and vision.

In our current situation where attendance at public worship is suspended, we have constantly to remind ourselves that the Christian life is not suspended. Our Church doors may be closed for public worship, but the message of Jesus Christ belongs not just within buildings. We must bring that message to those who are open to it, whether they are near to or distant from Church, whether young or old.

The hearts of the indifferent and of those who feel disillusioned by their experience of the Church will only be reached by a Church marked by holiness, care for the poor and by engagement in bringing an authentic Christian contribution to the common search for goodness and truth. The figure of Laurence O'Toole points the way for the future, but that future must begin today".

Fr. Michael Carey

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

Sat 6.30pm Margaret Pawley & Ellen & Terry Finnegan

Sun 8.30am Gerri McLoughlin

Sun 11.15am Patrick & Bridget Lenehan



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Mossie Corrigan

Mon 10.00am Dec members of Murphy Family

Tues 10.00am Niamh Buckley

Tues 10.00am Pat Barnwell

Wed 10.00am James Fitzsimons

Wed 10.00am Joseph Ryan

Thurs 10.00am Joe O'Neill

Thurs 10.00am Thanksgiving to Jesus, Divine Mercy & Sacred Heart

Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

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Sat 10.00am Kevin Wynn & Mary Carroll

Sat 6.30pm Michel & Peggy Hiney

Sun 8.30am

Sun 11.15am Dominic King

Donal Phelan (1st An)

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.



Altar List of the Dead

These lists are now available at the back of the Church.. 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

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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:

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



1st Sunday of Advent

The Christian life is not suspended

"To you, I lift up my soul, O my God"

Newsletter Sunday 29th November 2020



Continuing last week's newsletter with the final part of the Archbishop's homily given on the Feast of St. Laurence O'Toole, 14th November last 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'

" St. Laurence had evident holiness. His was a holiness developed in the solitude of his years at the Monastery of Glendalough. That solitude remained at the heart of his ministry as Archbishop. Those whom he encountered thought of him in the first place as a man of holiness. It may seem strange that those who feared him, feared most of all his holiness. Personal integrity and holiness bear within them a striking strength that can be stronger than physical power.

The second characteristic of Laurence's spirituality was his evident love for the poor. His political interventions with the Norman and Irish local kings were always a response to the perilous condition of the poor, the victims of violence and of the failure of a society that had the duty to protect them. He was not a political priest who sat at the sidelines and commented from a distance, even when such comment might have been valid.

Laurence was very much someone who in his life as Archbishop encapsulated Pope Francis' notion of a "poor Church and a Church for the poor". He was a man of authority who understood Christ's injunction, to exercise authority to serve the poor rather than to seek earthly power or recognition.

It was the authenticity of his witness that caused Laurence to be recognised as a forceful influence in public life. His vision of the Church was one of reaching out, rather than an inward looking vision trapped in the internal in-fighting or small mindedness within the Church.

Today we need an outward looking, forward looking Church that touches the hearts and the lives of both people and society through authentic witness to Jesus Christ. The Church must touch hearts not by constant condemnation but by opening hearts realistically to joy and hope. Its influence on society must be transparent in showing the purity of its intentions, rather than hiding behind the false security of worldly power or of fearfully hiding just with the likeminded. We need a Church that confidently offers the saving message of Jesus in creative language that opens to a dialogue of hopefulness.

If we remain trapped in an inner Church culture, we will end up struggling to find a place in a changed society, while becoming ever less relevant to that society. Much of the Church language used about renewal - even important calls like that of Pope Francis to synodality -

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**



The Season of Advent

A new spiritual and liturgical year begins today. We are familiar with "new year resolutions" when the secular year turns. What about our hopes for this coming year of faith and discipleship? Today, we ask God's guidance and blessing for the year just beginning. Each of us has a double task: to discern what God is calling me to and to decide what to put in place to facilitate my response to God's call.

The Advent season, full of longing, joy and hope, is a clarion call to renew once more, in a conscious and personal fashion, our engagement with the Good News. Maranatha!

Jesse Tree

Once again I thank John Walsh who again supplied the lovely Jesse Tree for St. Colmcille's. It is a lovely feature of the Advent Season

Advent Wreath

The beautiful Advent Wreath involved much work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney

St. Vincent de Paul

"You have the poor with you always" (Mt.26:11). We begin this four week season of Advent, which always has about half way through it the Annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. This collection takes places during the Mass as we know, replacing the Share Collection. Great generosity is shown to this collection and many people set money aside for it. This is a very necessary collection for the VdP Conferences throughout Ireland. This year – pandemic 2020 how are you going to get your donation to the VdP.

The collection is to place on **Sunday December 13th**. Will there be public Mass? I don't know. If there isn't you can make your donation in the following ways:

- Go to 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

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.

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

Advent Wreath-week 1

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. *"And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:12-13)



JESSE TREE-week 1

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. *'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom'* (Is 11.7). The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. The first week of Advent will see the following symbols on our Jesse Tree in both our churches

Apple

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. People began to disobey the commands of God and so we needed a redeemer

Ark

When Noah, his family and all the animals came out of the ark, God promised that he would always love his people. God's love was shown when Jesus came to live with us

Joseph's Dreamcoat

Joseph's Dreamcoat reminds us of the story of Joseph and his brothers. After he was rejected and sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, through understanding dreams, Joseph became an important person in the Egyptian kingdom.



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 Kay 086 2209297 - week Sunday 29th November to Saturday 5th December or you can email the parish office: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com. You can also find information on <https://www.bethany.ie>.