

The resurrection of Jesus is at the heart of the Christian message. Death is called, in scripture, 'the final enemy', and it completes the final and eternal victory of Jesus. It is that victory that our hope lies. 'by your cross and resurrection you have set us free...Dying, you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life...' The only thing we are sure of is that every single one of us is going to have to take that final leap of faith that we call death. When Jesus bowed his head on Calvary he trusted the Father to catch him, as it were. He returned, and spent forty days with his apostles to impress on them that he had overcome death, and there was no longer any gamble or uncertainty in it for them. We already share in resurrection, as we await our own entry into the fullness of that new and eternal life. (Source: *These might help* – Bishop Joseph Cassidy) **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Easter Mass Bouquet Cards	Sat 10.00am Mary & Fred O'Farrell
Tues 10.00am Catherine Ryan	Sat 6.30am Niamh Sheridan
Wed 10.00 Peter Gannon	Sun 8.30am Mick Dunphy
Thurs 10.00am Oliver Morton & deceased family members	Sun 11.00 Margaret & John Melia & Dec family members
Fri 10.00am Thomas Maher	Sun 6.30pm Marian Browne

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon Mon & Tues 9.20am

A Fundraising Concert in aid of the Church Building Fund will take place on Friday 19 May 8pm in the RIASC Centre. Our Lady of Victories Gospel Choir, Ballymun, and supporting acts will perform. Tickets €10. Please let Fr Peter or a committee member know if you would like to help in selling a ticket or 2.



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Details in today's Gospel encourage us to think of the resurrection as the gift of God's love. The cloth around Jesus' head – so carefully mentioned – takes us back to the raising of Lazarus and the words of the witnesses, "See how he loved him!" (Jn 11:36). It is the disciple whom Jesus loved who first comes to faith. In a word, coming to resurrection faith is a movement of the heart, that is, letting ourselves be so loved by God and loving in return.

Prayer - Compassionate God, love stands at the heart of all you do for us in Jesus. Open our hearts, that we may truly rejoice in your love for us. Lead us to newness of life by loving even as we have been loved. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*)

Seamus & Mags Greenan are cycling from Swords to Rome from 3rd - 29th June to raise much needed funds for an orphanage in Aleppo. If you would like to sponsor them please contact 8401389

Annual Service of Remembrance, Coombe Hospital

Join us for our Annual Service of Remembrance where we remember all the babies who died in the Coombe. We invite bereaved families on 23rd April, the Sunday after Easter, at 3.00pm in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Dolphins Barn.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-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: stolcmilleschurch@gmail.com



Easter Sunday

What does Resurrection mean?

"The Lord is truly risen, alleluia"

Newsletter, Sunday 16th April 2017



The Church celebrates Easter, not just for today but for fifty days, over a period that's called 'The Great Sunday'. Why? What does

the Resurrection mean?

- It means that this person, this extraordinary person Jesus of Nazareth, who was nailed into timber, hammered into the ground, buried under stone, put death completely into reverse and rose to new life. Death is so prevalent, in our experience so final and irreversible, that it really takes beating. He beat it.
- It means that the Resurrection is not just an historical fact, it's a continuing experience. We do not say 'Christ rose'; we say 'Christ is risen'. He is risen now. 'Where two or three are gathered in my name...' He is present in his Spirit – in his Word, in the Mass, in Holy Communion, in the Sacraments, in other people. He's here as our inspiration, our Saviour and Lord.
- It means that Resurrection is ours. It's not just a personal achievement on Our Lord's part. It's a public company in which we all have shares. And according to himself, the cost of a share, the price of a share, is faith. Not uninformed swallowing of everything, but a basic if sometimes faltering faith in him, 'I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live' (Jn 11:25).
- It means that life is not a dead-end. It's not a cul-de-sac. We've all met situations in life, indeed in our own community, where people died young, in an accident perhaps or from an unforgiving disease. Life can be so uneven, and death is so indiscriminate, that we need something to balance the scales. That something is the Resurrection. You need it to round things off. It's the one thing that rounds off our jagged existence. And God 'will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone' (Apoc 21:4)
- Resurrection means that we should be improving things now. Resurrection cannot be for the sacristy. It has to be for society, a risen world. An Easter people can never be complacent in the face of poverty, injustice and starvation.

It is to be hoped that the Resurrection will be recognisable in its familiarity, that we'll welcome it not because it's new and different but because it's something we've already begun to know.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – The Lord is truly risen, alleluia



Resurrexit sicut dixit

'He has risen as he said'. Risen Lord, kindle again in our hearts the fire of faith. May we be bearers of the light and joy of Easter faith to all whom we meet. The Lord is risen – he is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter Sunday

Our Easter celebration calls us to seek to strengthen our belief that new Life comes from an empty tomb. Our Easter celebration calls us to seek encounters with the risen Lord and believing that we in turn can be that presence of new Life for others. Our Easter amazement does not centre so much on whether or not we believe in Jesus' resurrection – we do! Our amazement is over the fact that we can encounter the risen Lord ourselves, that Jesus' new life is our own Life, and that he works through us to bring his risen Life to others

Easter Blessing

On behalf of myself, the Priests of the Parish, the Parish Sisters, the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to extend to all Parishioners of St. Colmcille's Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam and readers of this newsletter, the grace and blessings of the Easter Season. Happy Easter – the Lord is Risen. Alleluia

Easter Cards

A sincere thank you to all who helped with the packing and the distribution of the Easter Cards

Easter Dues

If you did not receive an Easter Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church. If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in Sacristy or Parish Office.

Flowers

The flower arrangements in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday are beautiful and involved hours of work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney

The Gift of the Spirit

Jesus returned to the Father and sent the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised to baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. This promise was fulfilled on the feast of Pentecost. The blessing of Pentecost is a perennial gift to the Church. In baptism we receive the sunless of the Holy Spirit; in Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit. Our vocation invites us to fan into flame the fire of the Spirit. God's love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) and we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Through the gifts, charisms and fruits of the Holy Spirit we witness to being children of God. (source: *Walk with me – Easter 2017. Alive publishing*)

Mass times next week, Monday - Friday, in St Colmcille's Church are at 10.00am - (no 8.00am Mass)

Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd October

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is subject to availability.

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.* Entrance fees where applicable. This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111** MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

Death overcome

As long as the sun comes over the hills, scatters the darkness, and fills the world with light; as long as the fields get green again, and the primroses and violets return; as long as the trees fill up again with leaves, there is hope for us and for the world. So come, let us follow the footsteps of spring, for the snow has melted, and life is awakening from its sleep and wanders through the hills and valleys. Come, let us ascend the heights and gaze upon the waving greenness of the plains below. O come, let us rejoice on the Easter Day, for death has folded up hid tent and gone away. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

ACCORD Dublin, the Catholic Marriage Care Service, is currently recruiting volunteers:



- **To give courses for couples preparing for marriage and Marriage and Relationship counsellors.**

If you would like to be part of a dynamic team, can relate easily to people in a sensitive and genuine way, would like fulfilling and meaningful work by making a real difference to couples and individuals, you might consider one of these positions. Training will be provided for both roles through the Pontifical University in Maynooth. Information evening for Marriage Preparation Facilitators will take place on: 20th April 2017 at 7:30 pm in ACCORD Dublin, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3. For further information please contact 01 478086

FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Divine Mercy devotions will take place in St. Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Sunday next 23rd April commencing 2:45pm consisting of chaplet of Divine Mercy, confessions, readings from St. Faustina's Diary, Adoration, Benediction, concluding with the usual 5:30pm evening Mass.