

**Mass Intentions this Weekend**

**Sat 6.30pm** Brendan O’Keefe  
**Sun 8.30am** Sr. Patrick Leamy (1st An)  
**Sun 11.15am** Joe Prendergast



**At our masses this weekend we also remember :** Bartle McDonnell Jnr, Patrick Pentony, Brendan Dunne

**Mass intentions for next Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Jim O’Loughlin	<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Brendan Dunne
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Daniel Murray	<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Holy Souls
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Frances Fullam	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Philomena Sweeney	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm John & Brendan Clarke
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am In Thanksgiving	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Tont Fetherston	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Joe & Peggy Savage	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Frances Spellman
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Mass of Reparation	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Paddy Keane

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:**

Denis O’Brien  
Newcourt Swords



**Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation runs from September 1st (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4th (the feast of St. Francis of Assisi). Amid numerous crises which have shaken our world, the theme this year is **“Restoring Our Common Home”**. During this season we are asked to join together to celebrate creation and protect our common home through prayer, reflection and action.

This year we celebrate this season mindful of the fact that our world continues to deal with the COVID-19 crisis as well as a devastating climate and biodiversity crisis. We look towards two UN Conferences in the Autumn, COP15 (on Biodiversity, due to take place in China) and COP24 (on climate change, Glasgow) in the hope that world leaders take the urgent action that is needed to Restore Our Common Home. We urge people to sign the **“Healthy Planet Healthy People”** petition as a key action for this Season of Creation. The global Christian family is called to awaken to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and with each other during the ecumenical Season of Creation and to encourage our parish communities to do the same. We hope that these resources will help you. Further details can be found on Trocarie website [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) “For we know that things can change!” (LS, 13).

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)**

Irish Mass will resume this Sunday at 11.00am



**Fr. Colin Rothery -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**

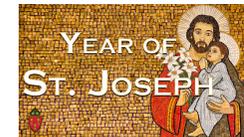
**Facebook: St. Colmcille’s Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



*My beloved father (Joseph), all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Newsletter Sunday 5th August 2021**



**A few words of introduction from your new priest...**

I was born 54 years ago to Imelda and John Rothery, in St Michael’s hospital, Dun Laoire. I have 3 sisters and we grew up in Dundrum and later, Kilmacud, where my mother still lives. I studied Arts in UCD and spent 3 years in Spain teaching English. After doing various jobs in Ireland, I entered Maynooth in 2003 and was ordained deacon in 2008 and priest in 2009 by Diarmuid Martin in the Pro-Cathedral. I have served as a curate in Bray and Tallaght, Administrator in North Wall and Co-Parish priest in Saggart. I studied theology in Rome as an under and post-graduate student and in 2017 I worked there as liaison priest for the World Meeting of Families. I was greatly surprised to be asked to get a phone call from Archbishop Farrell asking me to come to Swords after only a few years in my previous parish but in another sense was not, in that priests are getting harder to find and every parish needs someone! I hope, with the help of your prayers to build on the good work that Fr. Michael has done over the last 9 years. I am happy to say I know Fingal a little already because I spent a summer on a seminarian placement with Fr. John MacNamara in Brackenstown and was a deacon in Balbriggan in 2009. So, I already have a few friends in this part of the world and I look forward to making many more over the years to come. I was born by the sea and am delighted to be coming to live in Seatown, in such a historic parish, with its beautiful parish church. May St, Colmcille pray for us all as we go forward together in faith.

**My pilgrimage to Iona, Island of St. Colmcille**

Just before coming here, I did a pilgrimage to the tiny island of Iona, in the Inner Hebrides, where St. Colmcille lived and died (in 591), after leaving Ireland, where he founded many monasteries, including Swords. I had to drive about 1000 kilometres and take 3 ferries to get there but it was more than worth it, and it was special to do it as we mark 1500 years since our parish patron’s death. I prayed for all of you on Iona, and for the graces I will need to serve you well as your priest. It was a long journey but maybe one day we will go there together as a parish pilgrimage!

**Fr Colin**

*May the Lord be a sure path beneath your feet,  
a bright light before you,  
a kindly shepherd behind you;  
this day, this night and always.....St. Colmcille (Celebrating 1500 years)*



### **Camino Walk and Fundraiser**

Fr John is walking his final stage of the Camino Frances from Astorga to Sarria, a distance of 144kms.

If you would like to make a donation of sponsorship towards parish funds of Swords and Drynam please leave your donation in the Sacristy or with Colette in the Parish Office. This stage will complete my pilgrimage on the Camino Frances which is 776kms

**Fr John**



### **Pope Francis on Grandparents and the Elderly**

Jesus' gaze is contemplative. He looks into our lives; he sees and understands. Our grandparents and the elderly have looked at our lives with that same gaze. That is how they cared for us, ever since we were children. Despite lives of hard work and sacrifice, they were never too busy for us, or indifferent to us. They looked at us with care and tender love. When we were growing up and felt misunderstood or fearful about life's challenges, they kept an eye on us; they knew what we were feeling, our hidden tears and secret dreams. They held us in their arms and sat us on their knees. That love helped us grow into adulthood. And what about us? How do we see our grandparents and elderly persons? When was the last time we visited or telephoned an elderly person in order to show our closeness and to benefit from what they have to tell us? I worry when I see a society full of people in constant motion, too caught up in their own affairs to have time for a glance, a greeting or a hug. I worry about a society where individuals are simply part of a nameless crowd, where we can no longer look up and recognise one another. Our grandparents, who nourished our own lives, now hunger for our attention and our love; they long for our closeness. Let us lift up our eyes and see them, even as Jesus sees us.

Let us not lose the memory preserved by the elderly, for we are children of that history, and without roots, we will wither. They protected us as we grew, and now it is up to us to protect them, attend to their needs and make sure they are helped in daily life and not feel alone. Let us ask ourselves: "Have I visited my grandparents, my elderly relatives, the older people in my neighbourhood? Have I listened to them? Have I spent time with them?" Let us protect them, so that nothing of their lives and dreams may be lost. May we never regret that we were insufficiently attentive to those who loved us and gave us life.

Grandparents and the elderly are bread that nourishes our life. We are grateful to them for the watchful eyes that cared for us, the arms that held us and the knees on which we sat. For the hands that held our own and lifted us up, for the games they played with us and for the comfort of their caress. Please, let us not forget about them. Let us listen to them, cherish them and spend time with them. We will be the better for it!

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** are offering telephone support, please contact Denise 086 0610463 from Sunday 5th September to Saturday 11th September. Please phone after 6pm. Details on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie> It's good to talk. *Do not grieve alone or unaided.*

### **Publication of a Pastoral Letter on Climate Crisis by Archbishop Dermot Farrell**

On September 1<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was held. Our Archbishop Dermot has just published a letter to all of us on the theme. Here is an extract from it:

"We are living on the edge of huge historical change. Our common home, indeed our only home—this planet—is under threat. Our lifestyles, and the economies which support them are contributing significantly to climate change, and to the crisis it is causing: the many wildfires raging in these days, the melting of the polar caps, the rise of sea levels, the loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of the soil on which life depends. The future of life on this earth, which God created and which "he saw was good" (Genesis 1:21, 25), hangs in the balance. Humans are unequivocally driving global warming. It is beyond doubt that climate change is being caused by what we have done—and continue to do—in upsetting nature's equilibrium and balance.

Over the past eighteen months, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought home to us—in frightening and tragic ways—the fragility of our lives, and how fleeting are many of the networks on which we have come to depend. Our planet and its social organisation are as fragile as they are complex. What we need to realise is that, over the coming decades, the issues currently arising from climate change will impact far more on us than those from the coronavirus pandemic. Indeed, the havoc of the pandemic will pale when compared to that of climate change.

This pastoral letter, which I have titled, *The Cry of the Earth, the Cry of the Poor*, approaches the climate catastrophe from the perspective of faith. That is not to say, it excludes the insights and contribution of the natural sciences. On the contrary, healthy faith takes on board what God says through creation (see *Dei Verbum* §3). Faith and science are not opponents; in a truly Christian view, faith and reason—*fides et ratio*—go hand in hand. God reveals himself through the world. That is the heart of our Catholic faith. Scientists have issued a "code red" not just for the environment, but for humanity itself. God now calls us, individually and collectively, to work for the good of the planet and the good of all. Let us not fool ourselves: there can be no enduring response to the cry of the earth without responding to the need for justice and dignity.

This pastoral is an extended engagement with the vast and complex reality of climate. A long document, it seeks to dialogue with the varied views and voices, both religious and cultural, which seek to cast light on the crisis. All too often 'religion' appears as if it is no more than an intellectual failure of nerve. However, true religion is not a flight from the world: faith that is alive provides a framework for people to make decisions and take action. As a Church, and as a society, we need to reflect with greater depth, urgency, and seriousness about what we must do. This extensive pastoral is in the service of that deeper reflection. If not for your own sake, then for the sake of your children, and for the world's children, consider dedicating some time to the issues raised in its pages.

It is important to be clear: there is a cost in addressing the climate crisis. As well as financial cost, we will have to embrace lifestyle change. It requires many perspective shifts—political, social, economic and ecclesial. The challenge is to discover how we can live more sustainably, more responsibly, and more humanly in our common home. Christ came not only to call us to a new way of living, but he came to empower us to live in that new way. Christ has not left us; our Lord has not abandoned us, for—in the words of Pope Francis—

Christ has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. (LS §245)

Pastoral Letter on Climate Crisis by Archbishop Dermot Farrell titled *'The Cry of the Earth – The Cry of the Poor'*. is available from Veritas Publications. price €2.50