

Forgiving our enemies, therefore, is entirely compatible with reasonable acts of self-protection. For example, forgiveness is entirely compatible with having criminals arrested and placed behind bars where they cannot do further harm to the innocent. Forgiveness is even compatible with the use of lethal force by the police or the military, as a last resort, in fending off violent criminals or aggressive foreign powers. (See Catechism, 2263-2267.) Clearly, the duty to forgive your enemies is compatible with protecting yourself and your loved ones from harm and demanding high standards of conduct from those close to you, including your own close family members.

- Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God
- Let go of grudges
- Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives.

Fr Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Jim & Monica Reidy

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 8.00am Sheila Chitnis

Wed 8.00am Catherine Fleming

Wed 10.00 Ann & Joseph Walsh

Thurs 8.00am Dec members of McGonagle Family

Thurs 10.00 Patrick Kearns

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

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Sat 10.00am Anne Yorke

Sat 6.30pm James McGuirk

Sun 8.30am Cora Mullarkey

Sun 11.00am Paddy Ivers

Sun 6.30pm Jack & Marie Doyle

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

We will have tea and coffee after all Masses today. Please do come in for a chat.



The Bible's Most Important People

Esther – the Jewish wife of the Persian king, Ahasuerus. Angered by his wife Vashti, the king sought a new bride from among the most beautiful woman of his kingdom. As a result of this search, he found Esther, fell in love with her, married her, and made her his queen. Ahasuerus's favourite counsellor, Haman, lied to the king and plotted to kill the Jewish people. Esther confronted her husband concerning the plot. Angered, Ahasuerus had Haman killed, and Esther and her people were saved.

Free training for family carer

Family Carers Ireland is delighted to offer free training to family carers. The module starting on Friday 13th May is Care Skills which includes Patient moving and handling. The course runs in Mulhuddart Dublin 15 for five Fridays, 9.30am until 16.00. A non refundable booking fee of €20 is required to book your place. Phone 0860213798 or jmillman@familycarers.ie for more information

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up after all Masses **next weekend**

Monday 2nd May

Today is a bank holiday and Mass is at 10.00am only

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seaton 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: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



6th Sunday of Easter

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

"Proclaim to the ends of the earth; The Lord has freed his people, alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 1st May 2016

Works of mercy can be directed not only toward the needs of the body, but the needs of the soul as well. Indeed, the most

serious form of poverty of all can be the *poverty of the spirit*, not only because it drains life of all energy, joy, and sense of purpose, but also because it is the one kind of poverty that can last forever. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows:

- (1) **Admonish sinners.**
- (2) **Instruct the uninformed.**
- (3) **Counsel the doubtful.**
- (4) **Comfort the sorrowful.**
- (5) **Be patient with those in error.**
- (6) **Forgive offences.**
- (7) **Pray for the living and the dead.**

Fifth: Be Patient with Those in Error

This is a tough one and yet, we must always be patient with God's work in other people's lives. We must never harass, pressure, or manipulate anyone. There is a famous bumper sticker (*In the USA!*) that reads, "Please be patient: God is not finished with me yet!" That sums up pretty well what our attitude should be. Change has to come in God's own time. Even if we never see for ourselves the fruit of our efforts, God will surely do His part to water with grace the seeds we have planted, when and if people are ready to receive that gift. Until then, we are just to be patient and to pray for them, trusting in God's mercy and patience with us all.

- Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.
- Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.

Sixth: Forgive Offences

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord" (Rom 12:19). If there is any vengeance that needs to be "dished out," in this life or the next, the only One qualified to do it is the Lord, for He alone knows the secrets of all hearts. Thus, we must always let go of any desire in our hearts for vengeance, and in that sense at least, to forgive our enemies. That means stopping ourselves from exacting "petty vengeance" as well, which includes the use of detraction or slander or gossip to get back at people for the evil they may have done to us.

In short, we are not to curse the darkness, but to pray for those in darkness. (See Mt 5:44.)

However, forgiveness is probably the most misunderstood of all the works of mercy. It does NOT mean blindly letting oneself be victimised. You have a duty to protect yourself and your loved ones from harm, for you are all children of God whom He made in His own image and for whom He gave His life on the Cross. That's how valuable and precious you are in the eyes of our merciful Saviour!



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)



Sacrament of Confirmation

Over the past fortnight, the Parish celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for the boys and girls. We had two wonderful ceremonies and the boys and girls and their parents and families were delighted. The Church was at its best and looked lovely. For that I particularly thank God's housekeepers and the flower ladies (Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney). On both occasions the Sacrament was administered by Bishop Ray Field and he presided at a beautiful and prayerful ceremony. The Bishop gives each girl and boy the time to enjoy the moment and a memory that they will never forget.

BNS – Thursday 21st April

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Mr. Kieron Lyons (Principal) Ms. Denise Powell Ms. Angela Noonan and Mr Diarmuid Connell. The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the ‘subject’ is taught excellently. The 5th Class boys sang very well, so well done boys and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms Lisa Hoey; Ms. Orla Murtagh; Ms Caroline Cottell and Ms Lorraine Smith (Class Teachers) and Ms. Blaithin White(Choir Director) and organist Mr. John Burke. I thank also Mrs. Veronica McDermott, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

GNS – Wednesday 27th April

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Karen Burke Logue (Principal) and Ms. Aideen Lineen and Ms. Robyn O'Brien (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the ‘subject’ is taught excellently. The 5th Class girls sang very well, so well done girls and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms. Phil Cushen (Conductor) Ms. Kate McEneaney (Class Teacher) and organist Ms. Orla Daly and Ms. Aoibheann McMonagle (musician). I thank also Mr. David Begg, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

Signposts on the footpath of peace

To be glad of life, because it gives you a chance to love, to work, to play, and to look up at the stars. To despise nothing in the world except what is false and mean. To fear nothing except what is cowardly. To be guided by what you admire and love, rather than by what you hate. To envy nothing that is your neighbour's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manner. To think seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and everything of Christ. And to spend as much time as you can, with body and with spirit, in God's out-of-doors. These are little signposts on the footpaths of peace. *(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)*

Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 6th May** after the 10.00am Mass. Can the cleaners for this first Friday of the month please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

Year of Mercy

The thirteenth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - We want to live this Jubilee Year in light of the Lord’s words: Merciful like the Father. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. Jesus’ command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice (cf. Lk 6:27). In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God’s mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.

The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a *viator*; a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination.

Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us.



Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 10th June to raise funds for the re-decoration of our Parish Church of St. Colmcille. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event. If you wish to support this very worthy cause please contact John Campbell 087 9079245 or Susan Rallo 086 8152255

Old Borough N.S Fundraiser

All are warmly welcomed to Old Borough N.S/ St Columba's Hall on Church Road Swords Sat May 21st 3-5pm...Borough Bingo Bash. After school Activities Fundraiser. Free in. Cash, vouchers + gift prizes. 2 children's draws. Book of 10 rounds €10.

Msz Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 8 Maja o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

Rosary Beads

Rosary Beads, including Rosary Beads for First Holy Communion are now available from the Parish Office

