

We have time alright, please God, but there is an urgency about the use of time. And that's the point that's hammered home in the other two parables in today's Gospel – the one about the treasure in the field and the one about the merchant looking for fine pearls. In olden times, rich people often buried their treasure in a field because of invasions or revolts. A poor farm labourer, digging or ploughing in a field, comes across a treasure and is prepared to sell everything he has in order to buy that field. In olden times too, the pearl was considered more valuable than gold. This merchant finds the perfect pearl and is prepared to sell everything he has in order to own it! What Our Lord is saying is: once you discover my Kingdom, Once you discover me, the pearl, the treasure, you must be prepared to put me first. You must, like Solomon, have a discerning heart. You must be prepared to sacrifice your selfishness and your sin. You must be prepared to give everything up in order to possess me!

I don't underestimate at all the difficulty of changing one's way of life. I don't underestimate the difficulty of giving up sin. It's very hard! I don't underestimate the difficulty of putting Our Lord first, of doing the right thing in every situation. But in today's Gospel, you and I are called to think and to pray and to change. We are called to sincerity and commitment. We are called to make good use of time, to pull on the wheel, to turn and keep on turning. We are called to come back to God. To put Our Lord, his teaching and the teaching of the Church first in our lives. It's not easy, but it's very rewarding, and it brings peace of mind. May God help you and me in our weaknesses and in our blindness. May he give us the grace to change (while there is still time!). (Source: *These might Help by the late Bishop Joseph Cassidy*)

Fr. Michael Carey

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**8.30am**

**Sun 11.15am** Agnes Donovan (An)  
Robert O'Driscoll (An)  
Tom Gavillet (An)



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Intentions of all who sympathised with family of Andy Whelan

**Sun** 8.30am

**Tues** 10.00am Peter & Mary Gannon  
Pat Hennelly

**Sun** 11.15am Kevin Leonard (An)  
Christopher Reilly (An)

**Wed** 10.00am Tom Wilson

**Thurs** 10.00am Brendan Kavanagh  
**Fri** 10.00am Paddy Dillon

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

Sunday Mass in Drynam continues at 10:00AM and all going well with fewer than normal numbers. Thank you to all for observing the HSE guidelines in the church.



**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: o: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**  
**Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**We are called to make good use of time**



*“God is in his holy place,..he himself gives might and strength to his people”*

**Newsletter Sunday 26th July 2020**

Last Sunday and again today, Our Lord has been talking to us about the Kingdom of Heaven!

He has been giving us glimpses or insights into what the Kingdom is like. Last Sunday he talked to us about the weeds and the wheat. There were some people who wanted him to pull out the weeds and let the wheat grow on its own. In other words, they wanted to separate the good from the wicked and punish the wicked there and then. But he said: No – no, let them both grow until the harvest and then we will separate them, or unfortunately they will separate themselves (Mt.13:30). The one thing I want, he said, is to give people time. The time they need to repent. I want to give them space to turn – to take the roundabout and come back to me.

Now the very same message is in today's Gospel – or rather in the last parable of today's Gospel, the one about the net and the fish. Only when the net is full will it be dragged in, and then, only then, will the useless fish be separated from the good ones/. Our Lord is saying very clearly that separation will come. It will have to come, but only when time has run out, only as a last resort – my overwhelming concern is to be patient, to give people lots of time so that they can see the consequences of their sins and return to me!

In some ways the message in the Gospel is very comforting. It underlines Our Lord's marvellous mercy, his desire to save us, his reluctance to condemn us, his eagerness to give us time. The danger is that it would make us complacent, that it would confirm us in our complacency, that we'd say to ourselves, 'Ah, sure, Our Lord is very nice; he doesn't want to condemn us at all. Didn't he say he wanted to give us time? Sure we have plenty of time. We can keep going for another while. No need to give up sin, no need to change our lifestyle. Sure we can get a bit of a turn when we're coming near the end'.

The trouble is, we don't know, do we, when the end will come? We don't know. But we assume, that, in our case, it will be a long time yet. *One of the greatest illusions in life is the illusion of permanence.* We see death striking prematurely at others, but we are there to be shocked, to philosophise, sympathise and attend the funeral. We are outside the whole thing. It doesn't affect us directly. For the moment anyway we are safe. And we presume we are going to be safe for a long time to come. It's a foolish presumption. A very foolish presumption. 'therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect' (Mt.24:44).

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words...  
Please. Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



# 48

**Ss. Joachim and Anne** – parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord. An old tradition going back to the second century gives these names. They remind us that the Word truly became flesh in a particular family. Our devotion to them is an extension of our love of Mary and her Divine Son. St. Anne is patron of Canada, women in labour, miners, cabinet-makers and home-makers. *This Feast is not celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday*

## FACE-MASKS

**The National Public Emergency Team strongly recommend that all people wear cloth face coverings when in an indoor public space**

Can I ask that everybody at Mass please wear a face-mask. If you don't want to wear one, then please do so out of consideration for others. We can all sing quietly through them and speak through them so really it should not be an issue.

## Stewards

I thank the stewards in both our churches who are doing a fantastic job. It is not easy, but they as expected are caring and considerate in exercising their ministry and after Mass they sanitise the Church. We could have no Mass without them!

## Mass Schedule for July and August

**The Mass Schedule for July and August in St. Colmcille's will be as follows:**  
Monday to Friday – 10.00am only Sunday – 8.30am and 11.15am

## The Sunday Obligation

In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass. You may fulfil your obligation by attending Mass on any day of the week.

## Stewards at Mass

Would you be available to volunteer to help at Masses?. During the next few weeks people are on holidays and we are looking for more people to help out. It does not take too long, arrive about 30 mins before Mass to assist people to seats and sanitise the Church after Mass. Please contact Jeanette after Mass, 8400547 or Colette at 8407277 or email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com). **Thank You**

## Confessions

For the next while I will hear Confessions on the last Saturday of the Month from 10am to 11am. I heard them yesterday Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July and I will next hear them on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August. I have set up a Covid friendly space in the sanctuary area for the purpose of Confessions

## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

The Confirmation Ceremony which normally happened in one day will now happen over 5 days in order to comply with social distancing requirements. The Confirmation Ceremonies for the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS will take place over the five days from **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August** inclusive and all ceremonies will be held at 1.30pm

*The Boys were lucky as their Confirmation took place the day before the Schools closed down due to the Corona Virus*

## Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group is available to parishioners providing telephone support during the COVID-19 pandemic. We offer our sympathy to anyone bereaved during these very difficult months. If you would like to talk to a Bethany member please phone **Terri 01 8403243 from 26th July . - August 1st** If there is no reply please leave your first name and phone number. Or you can email the parish office [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) and your message will be forwarded to Bethany Group. This is a free and confidential service.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Michael McMahon                      Oaklands Parks  
William Abbott                            Estuary Court

## St. Vincent de Paul

The next collection is due on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. As the number of Sunday Masses is reduced by one and as the Church capacity is very low at 48 the Conference will collect after Mass on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August as well as Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**. They haven't had a collection in 4 or 5 months