

There is another stone that often seals the heart shut: *the stone of sin*. Sin seduces; it promises things easy and quick, prosperity and success, but then leaves behind only solitude and death. Sin is looking for life among the dead, for the meaning of life in things that pass away. *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* Why not make up your mind to abandon that sin which, like a stone before the entrance to your heart, keeps God's light from entering in? Why not prefer Jesus, the true light (cf. *Jn* 1:9), to the glitter of wealth, career, pride and pleasure? Why not tell the empty things of this world that you no longer live for them, but for the Lord of life?

Let us return to the women who went to Jesus' tomb. They halted in amazement before the stone that was taken away. Seeing the angels, they stood there, the Gospel tells us, "frightened, and bowed their faces to the ground" (*Lk* 24:5). They did not have the courage to look up. And how often do we do the same thing? We prefer to remain huddled within our shortcomings, cowering in our fears. It is odd, but why do we do this? Not infrequently because, glum and closed up within ourselves, we feel in control, for it is easier to remain alone in the darkness of our heart than to open ourselves to the Lord. Yet only he can raise us up. A poet once wrote: "We never know how high we are. Till we are called to rise" (E. Dickinson). The Lord calls us to get up, to rise at his word, to look up and to realize that we were made for heaven, not for earth, for the heights of life and not for the depths of death: *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* (continued next week).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Leo Callis	Sat 10.00am Dec members of Agnew Family
Mon 10.00am Tommy McKittrick & dec family members	
Tues 8.00am Matt & May Darcy & Matt Darcy Jnr	
Tues 10.00am Kit Barker	
Wed 8.00am Jimmy Murphy	Sat 6.30pm Richard Forbes
Wed 10.00am Peter Dangan	
Thurs 8.00am Nancy Lynch	Sun 8.30am Ted O'Connor & dec members of O'Connor family
Thurs 10.00am Jack, Catherine, Judy & Gertie Howard	
Fri 8.00am Sr Eileen Galvin	Sun 11.15am Joseph Tully
Fri 10.00am Teresa McGrath	

At our Masses next weekend we also remember: Joseph Dignam

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)
St. Vincent de Paul will have their monthly church collection for Drynam area today after Mass

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Noeleen Smith Walsh Sandford Wood



1st Saturday of the Month

Saturday 1st June is the first Saturday of June. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am followed by Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for 30 minutes

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)
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Sixth Sunday of Easter

Easter, is the feast of tombstones taken away.

“Proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia”

Newsletter Sunday 26th May 2019

We are now on the sixth Sunday of the Easter Season. As the season is nearly at an end I thought that I would print the Pope's Easter homily for 2019 – time is flying by, next Sunday we celebrate the Ascension and the Sunday after, Pentecost. In my opinion it is a very good and thought provoking homily on rolling away the stone

The women bring spices to the tomb, but they fear that their journey is in vain, since a large stone bars the entrance to the sepulchre. The journey of those women is also our own journey; it resembles the journey of salvation that we have made this evening. At times, it seems that everything comes up against a stone: the beauty of creation against the tragedy of sin; liberation from slavery against infidelity to the covenant; the promises of the prophets against the listless indifference of the people. So too, in the history of the Church and in our own personal history. It seems that the steps we take never take us to the goal. We can be tempted to think that dashed hope is the bleak law of life.

Today however we see that our journey is not in vain; it does not come up against a tombstone. A single phrase astounds the woman and changes history: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" (*Lk* 24:5). Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give into resignation or failure? Easter, brothers and sisters, is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside. God takes away even the hardest stones against which our hopes and expectations crash: death, sin, fear, worldliness. Human history does not end before a tombstone, because today it encounters the "living stone" (cf. *1 Pet* 2:4), the risen Jesus. We, as Church, are built on him, and, even when we grow disheartened and tempted to judge everything in the light of our failures, he comes to make all things new, to overturn our every disappointment. Each of us is called tonight to rediscover in the Risen Christ the one who rolls back from our heart the heaviest of stones. So let us first ask: *What is the stone that I need to remove, what is the name of this stone?*

Often what blocks hope is *the stone of discouragement*. Once we start thinking that everything is going badly and that things can't get worse, we lose heart and come to believe that death is stronger than life. We become cynical, negative and despondent. Stone upon stone, we build within ourselves a monument to our own dissatisfaction. Life becomes a succession of complaints and we grow sick in spirit. A kind of *tomb psychology* takes over: everything ends there, with no hope of emerging alive. But at that moment, we hear once more the insistent question of Easter: *Why do you seek the living among the dead?* The Lord is not to be found in resignation. He is risen; he is not there. Don't seek him where you will never find him: he is not the God of the dead but of the living (cf. *Mk* 22:32). Do not bury hope! *the sepulchre of hope*.



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*



Scoil an Duinnigh

The celebration of 1st Holy Communion took place last Saturday 25th May in St. Colmcille's Swords and it was a lovely occasion. Congratulations to all involved - Mr. Pol O Cathasaigh, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers: Noirin Ni Laighan (Principal), Maria Cutcliffe and Ide Nic Gearailt (Class Teachers) and the Music teacher Aoife Ni Chaoimh and the lovely school choir. The girls and boys were excellently and prayerfully prepared by their class teachers. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulation to the children's parents and families

The Month of June

June is proving to be a busy month in the Parish. On Friday fortnight, 7th June we hold the Annual Golf Classic. This will be immediately followed by the Annual Swords Parishes Pilgrimage Walk on Sunday 9th June. Then towards the end of the month we will hold a Coffee Morning on Saturday 22nd June (*More on this in a later newsletter*) and on that evening the First Communicants will join us for a Corpus Christi Procession and then on Sunday 30th June we celebrate the Annual Cemetery Mass.

Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on **Friday 7th June** to raise funds for the Parish. Again I thank you for your support in previous years which raised the funds necessary for the Painting of the Church which has delighted us all in the Parish. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. The time sheet will run from 11.00am to 4.00pm. There are some slots still available from 11.30am - 1.00pm 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/Bernie Campbell 086 15189562



We would love to see more ladies teams this year!

Golf Classic – Bumper Raffle

Tickets on sale at the church this weekend after all Masses – also on sale in sacristy. TICKETS €5.00 A STRIP OR 3 STRIPS FOR €10.00 ALL FUNDS TO GO TOWARDS PARISH MAINTENANCE FUND.

Raffle will be held at our annual Golf classic Friday June 7th. Great Prizes!



Swords Camino Pilgrim Walk

This will take place on Sunday 9th June starting in **St. Finian's Church, River Valley at 2.00pm**. The theme of the Walk will be a reflection on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. At each station (see below) a Psalm will be prayer relevant to the particular gift of the Holy Spirit. A bookmark with a prayer on the back will be provided and this will be said before leaving each stop. Also each pilgrim will be given a passport and this will be stamped at each stop

Beginning

- **St Finian's Church – Right Judgement and Wisdom**
- **St Columba's Church - Understanding**
- **St Colmcille's Well - Courage**
- **St Colmcille's Church - Knowledge**

Ending

- **St Cronan's Church – Wonder & Awe and Reverence**
-

Refreshments of Tea & Coffee

At each stop we will have:

- Welcome and a word on the relevant Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Reflection from Book of Psalms on the relevant Gift of the Holy Spirit
- Prayer from the Bookmark

A lot of work has gone into preparing this. Please do come along and join in. I suppose it should take about 2 hours.

Exam Mass

This takes place on **Saturday 1st June at 6.30pm**. Students will be invited write their names on a piece of paper and place it in the identified basket. This basket will be left in front of the Altar for the duration of the exams. If you have a family member or friend or just know someone who is preparing for exams, please feel free to put their name in the basket. Also a special candle will be lit and kept lighting for the duration of the exams

A Student's Prayer

The following is a prayer for students, which I hope will help them through the stress of their exams.

*Lord, I have knowledge, so will you show me how to use it wisely and find a way to make the world I live in a better place, and make life with its problems a bit easier to face.
May I ever be aware in all that I do that knowledge come from learning and wisdom comes from you.*

Camino Walk by Fr John for the Parish's of Swords and Drynam.

Fr John is **NOW** walking a stage of the Camino Frances from Caldazillo de la Cueva to Astorga, a distance of 148 kms. If you would like to make a donation of sponsorship towards parish funds for Swords and Drynam then fill in donation leaflet in Sacristy or Parish Office

