

However, when it was over he found himself out in the streets once more, going along aimlessly as before. The effects of the experience faded. Though he went back to that Church many times afterwards he was never able to recapture that moment.

That homeless man wanted to hold on to that experience. He wanted to go backwards instead of forwards. He might have used the experience to illuminate the darkness in his life, and to go forward more hopefully and courageously.

Peter made the same mistake. He wanted to stay on the mountain top. He wanted to hug and hold on to the blessedness of the experience. He did not want to go back down to the everyday and common things again, but to remain for ever in the enchanted land. But Jesus summoned him to go back down the mountain and to face the future. That experience was not meant to provide an escape from the struggle that lay ahead, but to help him face it. The hour of light was meant to help him face the hour of darkness.

Yet it's clear that something of the wonder of that day remained with Peter and illuminated his life, because many years later he wrote: 'We were eye-witnesses of his glory on the mountain... A voice came to him saying, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased".' (2 Pet 1:17-18).

We too can experience rare moments of light and joy. We get glimpses of the promised land towards which we are travelling in faith. In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. But these moments of transfiguration are given to us to strengthen us for our everyday tasks, and to enable us to face the cross which in some shape or form comes to everyone. The moment of glory does not exist for its own sake. It exists to clothe the common things with a radiance they never had before.

Prayer and religion are not escapism. They are meant to help us face life with all its difficulties and challenges, to embrace the high and low moments of life, the hilltop and the pit."

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Mary Byrne	Sat 6.30pm Paul Murphy
Tues 8.00am am Bernard Rabbitte	
Tues 10.00am Alice Tyrell Martin Quinn (1st An)	
Wed 8.00am Mary Mann	
Wed 10.00am Gerry Malone	Sun 8.30am In Honour and Thanksgiving of our Heavenly Father Andy Whelan
Thurs 8.00am Denis O'Connell	Sun 11.15 Elizabeth O'Brien Andrew Fottrell (1st An)
Thurs 10.00am John O'Leary	
Fri 8.00am Special Intention	
Fri 10.00am Marian O'Connell	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

We are continuing with works to commission the new portocabin behind the church which will be used for storage and a meeting room. This will facilitate removal of the existing portocabin and make way for improvement works to the church itself.

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: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Glimpses of Glory

"O God, come to my assistance, O Lord, make haste to help me!"

Newsletter Sunday 4th August 2019



Next Tuesday 6th August, is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. I have decided to devote this Sunday's newsletter to that wonderful feast day.

Today's Gospel offers us a glimpse of the satisfying, truly wonderful moments that life sometimes offers us or throws at us even. These moments are truly wonderful in themselves – but when looked at or reflected upon through the eyes of faith, they offer us a taste of heaven, an experience of God that awaits us beyond this life.

These wonderful moments are in the language of today's gospel – transfiguration moments. All of us, I am sure, would have had transfiguration moments. Such moments will often be times when we hear our name spoken in love, when we have a deep sense that we are accepted and valued by someone. We find it easy to remember these moments and in more difficult times we can find ourselves going back to such moments in memory and continuing to draw life from them. Such experiences live on in our memories, and can sustain us long after they have happened.

Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB has the following to say about this Feast Day.

"On Mount Tabor God's light burst forth from the body of Jesus, and he was transfigured. The three apostles were overcome with the beauty and brilliance of it. It was not a surface thing, but something inside shining through. In short: God was in Jesus.

We too have the splendour of divinity in us because we are made in the image of God. Therefore, we too can have moments of transfiguration. Van Gogh said, 'The poorest woodcutter or miner can have moments of emotion and inspiration which gave him a feeling of an eternal home to which he is near.'

A poor man living in a Dublin hostel for the homeless told the following story. One day he was walking along a street in Dublin. At a certain point he found himself outside a Church. Before he realised it, he was inside. He couldn't recall whether or not he said any prayers. But his soul was flooded with light. His depression lifted, and a great peace descended on him. He felt that he belonged on this earth after all. He felt close to God and loved by God.

The experience seemed to last for a long time, yet he had a feeling it may have lasted only a few minutes. But he said he'd gladly give the whole of his life for those few moments. What made the experience so wonderful was the realisation that he had done absolutely nothing to deserve it. It was a pure gift from God to him. For one short moment he tasted glory.

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*



Summer Schedule

Weekday 8.00am Mass

This Mass has resumed

Visitors

Now that we are in summertime, we get visitors to both of churches, whether holidaymakers or family members visiting home. You are all very welcome and I hope that you have a pleasant and safe holiday/family visit in Swords.

Newsletter – Holidays

There will be no newsletter for the next fortnight. It will return on Sunday 25th August

Parish Office

The Parish Office will be closed next week and will re-open on Monday 12th August

Congratulations – Fr Paul

On the retirement of The Most Reverend Raymond Field, The Very Reverend Paul Thornton, Brackenstown is appointed Episcopal Vicar with responsibility for the Deaneries of Blanchardstown, Fingal North and Maynooth. It is a huge responsibility and I know that you will join with me in wishing Fr. Paul all the best – please keep him in your prayers

Mass intentions for week commencing 12th August

Mon 8.00am Sr Laboure Cuddihy

Mon 10.00am Gerard Harnett

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am McGreevy & Geraghty Families

Wed 8.00am In Thanksgiving

Wed 10.00am Marian O'Connell

Wed 6.30pm Fr Brian Keenan

Thurs 8.00am Special Intention

Thurs 10.00am Holy Souls

Fri 8.00am Eileen Donovan

Fri 10.00am Jim Stowe

Sat 6.30pm John Reid

Sun 8.30am Geraldine Harrison

Sun 11.15am Bridie Ferris

Mass intentions for week commencing 19th August

Mon 8.00am John & Bernadette Keenan

Mon 10.00am James Brock

Tues 8.00am David McPeake

Tues 10.00am Orla O'Sullivan

Wed 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor

Wed 10.00am Orla O'Sullivan

Thurs 8.00am Louise Quigley

Thurs 10.00am Willie, Thoms & Kathleen Morrission

Fri 8.00am Jim Thomas

Fri 10.00am Ellen Donovan

Sat 6.30pm Cora Duffy

Sun 8.30am Elizabeth Sharkey

Sun 11.15am Nick Bates

St. Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

This takes place on **Saturday 10th August**. To book your seat please contact Mary: 087-2711376 or Ita: 01-8402268. Coach costs €15 and departs from 'The

Star' at 8am sharp. There will be a stopover for Breakfast/Snack en – route and an Evening meal/ carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Srokestown. (This cost is not included in the coach fare)



Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage Fund

The Legion of Mary will next weekend August 3rd/4th hold their annual outdoor collection in aid of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Trust. The monies from this very worthwhile collection goes to the Lourdes Office at Archbishop's house and helps sponsoring the cost of sending sick pilgrims to Lourdes with the Diocesan annual pilgrimage on September each year.

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **next** weekend at all Masses

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prayer in the Christian tradition is first of all addressed to God the Father. God is the Father of the Lord Jesus, the Christ as well as our Father. This is true of most of the Church's liturgical prayer. Christian prayer may also be directed towards Jesus, especially by calling on his holy name. One of the most ancient examples of prayer is: 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.'

Reflection -The richness of the Church's tradition of prayer can be seen from some of the many biblical titles given to Jesus which may be used in prayer: Son of God, Word of God, Lord, Saviour, Lamb of God, King, Beloved Son, Son of the virgin, Good Shepherd, our life, our light, our hope, our resurrection, friend of humankind.

(Source: St. Paul's Missal)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently

Andrew Whelan

Darren Sower

Robert O'Driscoll

Castlefarm

Knocksedan

Carlton Court

