

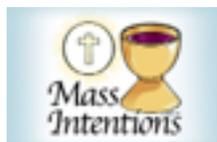
Tonight we acquire a fundamental right that can never be taken away from us: *the right to hope*. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile.! It is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. Over these, we have kept repeating, “All will be well”, clinging to the beauty of our humanity and allowing words of encouragement to rise up from our hearts. But as the days go by and fears grow, even the boldest hope can dissipate. Jesus’ hope is different. He plants in our hearts the conviction that God is able to make everything work unto good, because even from the grave he brings life.

The grave is the place where no one who enters ever leaves. But Jesus emerged for us; he rose for us, to bring life where there was death, to begin a new story in the very place where a stone had been placed. He, who rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance of the tomb, can also remove the stones in our hearts. So, let us not give in to resignation; let us not place a stone before hope. We can and must hope, because God is faithful. He did not abandon us; he visited us and entered into our situations of pain, anguish and death. His light dispelled the darkness of the tomb: today he wants that light to penetrate even to the darkest corners of our lives. Dear sister, dear brother, even if in your heart you have buried hope, do not give up: God is greater. Darkness and death do not have the last word. Be strong, for with God nothing is lost! *(Continued next week)*

Fr. Michael Carey

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**Sat 6.30pm** James McGuirk  
**Sun 8.30am** Eileen Penston & Kathleen O’Connor  
**Sun 11.15am** Margaret Prendergast  
 Aidan McGlynn (MM)



At our Mass this weekend we also remember: Tom, Mary & Sharon Conway, Canon Ciaran Houlihan Rec Dec

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Bernadette & John Keenan	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Martin McTiernan
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Tom, Mary & Sharon Conway	<b>Sun</b> 8.30pm Matt & Mary Darcy & Matt Jnr
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Fr Philip O’Driscoll	
<b>Tue</b> 10.00am Monica & James Reidy	
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Margaret Hughes	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Mass in Honor of our Lady	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Denis O’Connell Tina Noble (1st An)
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Ann Yorke	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Jimmy Wall	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Mary Heron & Margaret Doyle	

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

Fr. John Collins continues to include the requested intentions for Sunday 10:00am Mass in Drynam in his own Mass each Sunday. All are invited to join via Webcam the Vigil Mass from St. Colmcille’s each Saturday evening at 7:00PM or Sunday Evening Prayers at 5:00pm.



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



Sixth Sunday of Easter

**The women did not allow themselves to be paralysed.**

*“The Lord has freed his people, alleluia”*

**Newsletter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020**



Over the next fortnight I will print the Pope’s Easter Vigil homily. It makes for excellent reading, is very reflective and is of course overshadowed by the impact of the corona Virus.

“After the Sabbath” (Mt 28:1), the women went to the tomb. This is how the Gospel of this holy Vigil began: with the Sabbath. It is the day of the Easter Triduum that we tend to neglect as we eagerly await the passage from Friday’s cross to Easter Sunday’s Alleluia. This year however, we are experiencing, more than ever, the great silence of Holy Saturday. We can imagine ourselves in the position of the women on that day. They, like us, had before their eyes the drama of suffering, of an unexpected tragedy that happened all too suddenly. They had seen death and it weighed on their hearts. Pain was mixed with fear: would they suffer the same fate as the Master? Then too there was fear about the future and all that would need to be rebuilt. A painful memory, a hope cut short. For them, as for us, it was the darkest hour.

Yet in this situation *the women did not allow themselves to be paralyzed*. They did not give in to the gloom of sorrow and regret, they did not morosely close in on themselves, or flee from reality. They were doing something simple yet extraordinary: preparing at home the spices to anoint the body of Jesus. They did not stop loving; in the darkness of their hearts, they lit a flame of mercy. Our Lady spent that Saturday, the day that would be dedicated to her, in prayer and hope. She responded to sorrow with trust in the Lord. Unbeknownst to these women, they were making preparations, in the darkness of that Sabbath, for “the dawn of the first day of the week”, the day that would change history. Jesus, like a seed buried in the ground, was about to make new life blossom in the world; and these women, by prayer and love, were helping to make that hope flower. How many people, in these sad days, have done and are still doing what those women did, sowing seeds of hope! With small gestures of care, affection and prayer.

At dawn the women went to the tomb. There the angel says to them: “Do not be afraid. He is not here; for he has risen” (vv. 5-6). They hear the words of life even as they stand before a tomb... And then they meet Jesus, the giver of all hope, who confirms the message and says: “Do not be afraid” (v. 10). *Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear*: This is the *message of hope*. It is addressed to us, today. These are the words that God repeats to us this very night.

## 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*



### PRIEST'S INCOME

The Priests of the Archdiocese received a letter this week from the Committee in charge of the Common Fund, which 'pays' the priest. Part of the letter included the following:

"As an emergency measure, for the period of the lockdown, having received the financial statements of the fund,..... from May, priests will have to receive a 25% reduction in their monthly payment. This will be reviewed one month after Sunday Mass celebrations can resume. ...

I recognise that "Alleluia" may not be the first sentiment that comes to your lips as you read this letter! It is certainly not a joy to have to communicate these difficult decisions to you. So many families and individuals throughout our land and around the world are in even worse situations because of this Pandemic."

With the above in mind, if you haven't submitted Easter Dues and are in a position to do so you can either 'click the Donate button' on the Parish webpage or put in an envelope and slide under the Sacristy Door – *the side nearest the door hinges.*

### THANK YOU

Many parishioners have already used the 'Donate' button and some have sent Easter Dues and 1<sup>st</sup> Collection offerings via the envelope under the door system – I sincerely thank you for your generosity

### How is it going?

Another week of severe restrictions and social distancing. It is hard but we must try our best. My main contact these past weeks have been with the few - less than 5 persons representing the PPC's of Swords and Drynam who come to the Saturday evening vigil Mass for Sunday as well as bereaved families for funerals. The others I meet are the shop assistants in the newsagents and supermarkets who are great and my neighbours. I'm on the phone to Colette, Jeanette, the Parish Sisters and of course **the Canon** and I visit my parents twice a week whilst maintaining social distancing. It looks like it's going to continue like this for a while yet.

As you know I'm down to the Church twice a day for Morning Prayer/Rosary and Evening Mass. This gives a structure to my day. For the rest of the day I read, say a few prayers, walk Slaney - my dog and watch TV. I don't have Netflix but I manage to find a few programmes each day! Having said that last Saturday I was so bored and fed up and couldn't motivate myself to do anything so I passed the day flicking through the TV. I had the Evening Mass to look forward to which was the one meaningful and useful thing I did that day!

I'm 'okay' again and back to my routine. Like everything in life, for some these times aren't too bad but for others it's a real challenge and for most of us it's a case of 'muddling' through. So stay safe and take care!

*Sometimes the best thing you  
can do is not think, not wonder,  
not imagine, not obsess.  
Just breathe and have faith  
that everything will work  
out for the best*

### Mass in Swords/Drynam

**ALL MASSES IN SWORDS ARE SUSPENDED** until further notice.

**BUT** I have installed a web camera and will be saying a daily Mass at 5.00pm if you care to tune in. A lot of parishes including Brackenstown have Mass at 10.00am. River Valley has Mass at 7.00pm and therefore I have rightly or wrongly chosen 5.00pm. As I have been writing in the past few newsletters, for those who cannot attend Mass and receive Holy Communion there is a prayer below which may be said. A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**"And all will be well and all manner of things shall be well" – Julian of Norwich**

**In the current emergency, all are dispensed from the obligation to physically attend Sunday Mass**

**Sunday Mass** – I will celebrate Mass via the webcam on Saturday Evenings at 7.00pm (The Vigil for Sunday) and on Sunday at 5.00pm I will celebrate the Evening Prayer of the Church

**COVID-19 Support Line for Older People** ALONE has launched a national support line and additional supports for older people who have concerns or are facing difficulties relating to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Professional staff are available to answer queries and give advice and reassurance where necessary: Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling **0818 222 024**. Hours may be extended to meet the demand

### Parish Finances

At this time, we must still try to maintain our Churches .

If you would like to contribute via the family offering you may consider donating by standing order, please contact the Parish Office by email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com) and a form will be sent to you.

I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the First Collection , Share and Easter dues through the Parish website. This can be done by clicking on Donate on home page of the website [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)

**Thank you for your ongoing support**



### Do you need to talk to a counsellor?

**Fingal Counselling Service** is open to accept new clients and new referrals. Given the current restrictions on face to face contact, all assessment and counselling appointments will be completed via telephone until the restrictions are lifted. Call **01 8902596**, leave a message and we will return your call *Stay safe*

- The Parish Office is closed but can be reached by email [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com).
- A digital copy of **Sunday's missalette**, which includes the readings is now available on the Parish website (home page) [swords-parish.com](http://swords-parish.com)