

On the contrary, if he is not so, he is not a pastor; he is a hierarch; he is an administrator, perhaps a good one, but he is not a pastor. Closeness to the people. And Saint John Paul II gave us the example of this Close to those big and small, close to those near and far, always close. He made himself close third trait, love of *justice*. But full justice! A man who wanted justice, social justice, the justice of peoples, the justice that drives away wars. But full justice! For this reason, Saint John Paul II was a man of mercy, because justice and mercy come together; they cannot be distinguished [in the sense of being separate], they are together: justice is justice, mercy is mercy, but one is not found without the other. And speaking of the man of justice and mercy, let us consider how much Saint John Paul II did so that people could understand God's mercy. Let us think about how he promoted devotion to Saint Faustina [Kowalska], whose liturgical memory *beginning today* will be for the entire Church. He had heard that God's justice had this face of mercy, this attitude of mercy. And this is a gift that he left us: *merciful justice* and *just mercy*.

Fr. Michael Carey

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**Sat 6.30pm** Anna Redmond

**Sun 8.30am** John & Mary Mulligan

Mary O'Connor

**Sun 11.15am** Christine & Frances Loughran & son Colm

June Kenny



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Anthony Reilly

**Sat** 6.30pm Tommy Hanratty

**Tues** 8.00am Magaret Hughes Reilly

**Sun** 8.30am Paddy Barker

**Wed** 8.00am Margaret Hughes Reilly

**Sun** 11.15am Dan & Eve Geoghegan

**Thurs** 10.00am Anthony Reilly

Malachy Turley MM

Sean Byrne MM

**Fri** 8.00am In Reparation & Atonement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Fri** 10.00am Denis Madden

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

The Pastoral Team is now working to develop our Return to Mass plan for the church in Drynam. We are following the guidelines of the Irish Episcopal Conference. We look forward to reopening soon. More details to follow in coming weeks.



**Saints in the Church's calendar**

**THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS – Friday 19th June** understood in the light of the Scriptures, the term 'Sacred Heart of Jesus' denotes the entire mystery of Christ: Son of God, uncreated wisdom; infinite charity, principle of the salvation and sanctification of mankind

**The Immaculate Heart of the BVM, – Saturday 20th June** celebrated the day after the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The contiguity of both celebrations is in itself a liturgical sign of their close connection.

**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**



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
**100 years ago the Lord visited his people**

*“He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock”*

**Newsletter Sunday 14th June 2020**



Today's Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is good Feast Day (*in my opinion*) to share with you Pope Francis' homily on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St. Pope John Paul II, born 18<sup>th</sup> May 1920.

“The Lord loves his people” (cf. Ps 149:4), we sang, was the refrain of the Responsorial Psalm. And also a truth that the people of Israel would repeat; they liked to repeat: “The Lord loves his people”. And in difficult moments, always “the Lord loves”; one must wait for how this love will manifest itself. When the Lord sent, out of this love, a prophet, a man of God, the people's reaction was: “The Lord *has visited his people*” (cf. Ex 4:31); because he loves them, he has visited them. And the multitude who followed Jesus, seeing the things that Jesus did, said the same: ‘The Lord has visited his people’ (cf. Lk 7:16).

And today we here can say: 100 years ago the Lord *visited* his people. He sent a man; he prepared him to be bishop and lead the Church. Remembering Saint John Paul II, let us come back to this: “The Lord loves his people”; “the Lord has visited his people”; he sent a pastor.

And what are, let us say, the ‘traits’ of a good pastor that we can find in Saint John Paul II? So many! But we shall only speak of three. Given that persons say Jesuits always say things in threes, we shall say three: prayer, closeness to the people, and love of justice. Saint John Paul II was a man of God because he *prayed*, and he prayed a lot. But how did a man who had so much to do, so much work to lead the Church..., have so much time to pray? He was well aware that a bishop's first task is to pray. And Vatican II did not say this; Saint Peter said it. When they made deacons they would say: ‘And to us bishops, prayer and the liturgy of the Word’ (cf. Acts 6:4). A bishop's first task is to pray, and he knew this; he did this. The model of a bishop who prays, the first task. And he taught us that when a bishop examines his conscience in the evening he must ask himself: how many hours did I pray today? A man of prayer.

The second trait: a man of *closeness*. He was not a man detached from people, but instead he went to find people; and he travelled the entire world, finding his people, seeking his people, becoming close. And closeness is one of the features of God with his people. Let us recall that the Lord said to the people of Israel: ‘See, what people has its gods so near as I am to you?’ (cf. Deut 4:7). A closeness of God with his people which is then made firm in Jesus, is made strong in Jesus. A pastor is close to the people.

## 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*



### June 29<sup>th</sup>

We are working towards getting the Church ready for its first public Mass in over 3 months which all going well will happen on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>.

### The Church is open

St. Colmeille's is open every day for private prayer from 10.30am until 4.30pm. Please use the hand sanitisers provided and observe social distancing

### 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. Thank you also to all who have used the 'new' 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> collection envelopes.

### The Blessing of the Graves

The Annual Mass with the blessing of Graves due to be held on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> *is cancelled* due to the Covid19 pandemic. I myself will bless the Cemetery in the week leading up to Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June

### 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. The support line is open Monday to Friday, 8am-8pm, by calling [0818 222 024](tel:0818222024). Hours may be extended to meet the demand.

### The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Jesus himself practised open table-fellowship, to express God's unconditional love and acceptance. Before he died, he spoke words over the bread and wine, words which disclosed the meaning of his death and resurrection. When St Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the Lord's Supper, he had to remind them that the sacrament is meant to be a communion among all who celebrate it and to have a practical affect in our lives. As Benedict XVI wrote: "A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is essentially fragmented" (God is Love).

**Prayer** - Lord, as we gather around your table, help us to recognise you in the breaking of the bread and in each other. May we live the communion we received by practising both service and reconciliation. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Pauline Bermingham	Castlefarm
Malachy Turley	Kettles Lane
Frances Donlon	Drynam Road
Sean Byrne	Malahide
Margaret Quinn	Formerly Montgorry
Philip Rooney	Holywell Square
Gerard Martin	Southbank
Agnes Robinson	Jugback Lane
Thomas McGrane	Main Street



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### Community connect

Are you struggling with an unplanned pregnancy? Are you finding it tough to access support? Do you need some practical assistance? Community Connect is here to offer you some help. If you are someone you know is pregnant or a new parent and in need, please get in touch with us at: [info@communityconnect.ie](mailto:info@communityconnect.ie) or phone 085 8758366