

we live more consciously, more sustainably and walk more gently on the earth. This deeper awareness, “takes us to the heart of what it is to be human” and gives us an opportunity to regain a sense of awe and wonder for creation. “Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever St. Francis would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise.” (LS, 11). In Laudato Si we also read: “If we approach nature and the environment without an openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak to the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters. . . . By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.” (LS, 11). To put it another way, “we will only fight for what we love” (Thomas Berry). Laudato Si describes the roots of the environmental crisis as deeply spiritual, because, like the workers in the vineyard, we have forgotten who we are and where we come from. Let us recommit today to restoring this relationship.

As we bring this Season of Creation to a close, let it be a beginning, a spring-board into contemplation and action where our relationship with God’s creation is concerned. This is an urgent call. And one which faith communities have a responsibility to respond to. Let us Live Laudato Si. “Truly much can be done!” (LS, 180).

St. Francis of Assisi – Sunday 4th October, 1181-1226, son of a wealthy merchant and abandoned all things for the love of Christ, founded the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans), and with St. Clare, the Poor Clares. For the last two years of his life he suffered the stigmata. Patron saint of ecologists. (*Not celebrated this year as Feast Day falls on a Sunday*)
Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass through the Parish webcam

Sat 6.30pm Willie Rooney
Sun 8.30am Phyllis O’Rourke
Sun 11.15am Rose Howard



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Special Intention	Sat 6.30pm Maureen & Har Donnelly
Tues 10.00am Brendan Reddington	
Wed 10.00am Holy Souls in Purgatory Paddy Leonard	Sun 8.30am Fergus O’Toole
Thurs 10.00am Leo Watson Sr Patrick Leamy	Sun 11.15am Owen Kennedy
Fri 10.00am	

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

Our church in Drynam will continue to stay closed during this period adhering to HSE guidelines. If you wish, Mass from St. Colmcille’s can be accessed on the Parish Webcam as per the New Mass Times notice in this newsletter.



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



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Season of Creation - Final

“Within your will, o Lord, all things are established”

Newsletter Sunday 4th October 2020

CULTIVATING HOPE - A Faith Response to the Climate Crisis



Final Sunday of the Season of Creation – 4th October

For this Final Sunday of the Season of Creation I include below a piece written by Jane Mellet a member of the Laudato Si Working Group of the Council for Catechetics.

When Jesus taught in parables, he always described situations that His listeners would be familiar with; in today’s example, a vineyard. We read and hear that the owner of the vineyard has left the workers to care for the land and trusts that they will do what is necessary so that it can bear fruit. The workers have freedom to do as they wish, but still, the vineyard belongs to the landlord. They are expected to honour the agreement that has been made. However, they do not. They have lost sight of the original plan and, consumed by greed and selfishness, have lost their way.

Today we mark the end of the Season of Creation, a time where we celebrate all that is part of our beautiful world, God’s creation. It is a season where we pray with and for creation and remind ourselves that we are protectors of this earth, given responsibility to ‘till’ and to ‘care’, not to plunder and destroy. We are the tenants of this parable, provided with everything we need to prosper and given responsibility to protect our world for the generations to come. Yet we know that our world is suffering. In Laudato Si, Pope Francis’ encyclical on Care for Our Common Home, we are asked to hear the cry of the earth, to awaken to what is happening to God’s creation and to take the urgent action that is needed.

St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is today, was someone who was intimately connected with nature. He experienced all of God’s creation as family, ‘*Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Sister Water*’. St Francis was a mystic and a pilgrim who saw how intimately connected everything in this world really is. The COVID 19 crisis has reminded all of us of this deep interconnection. It has shown us how what happens in one part of the world affects us all. We share one common humanity and live together on a common home. This health crisis and the environmental crisis are deeply linked. Both are global emergencies that affect millions of people; both are experienced most deeply by the poor and vulnerable, and both expose the deep injustices in our societies. Both will be solved only through a united effort that calls on the best of the values we share.

During the days of cocooning and lockdown we were/are forced to embrace a quiet time, a slower pace of life where we became more aware of simple things like birdsong, the wind, soil, trees, flowers, the earth resting. This time brought big questions to the fore for many people, such as ‘what is truly important in my life?’ It also brought opportunity, an opportunity for each of us to move into a different way of life, a life where

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*



Newsletters and Missallettes

This is just a reminder. It's happening the correct way. The Newsletters and Missallettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them **BUT** bring them home with you.

In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with you.

New Mass times in St Colmcille's Church

The church is closed for public Liturgies during this Level 3 'Lockdown'
During the current restrictions Mass will be celebrated Monday - Saturday at 10.00am and Sunday at 11.15am, all can be viewed on the Parish webcam which can be accessed through the website, www.swords-parish.com

Francis (by Malcolm Guite)

'Francis rebuild my church which, as you see
Is falling into ruin.' From the cross
Your saviour spoke to you and speaks to us
Again through you. Undoing set you free,
Loosened the traps of trappings, cast away
The trammelling of all that costly cloth
We wind our saviour in. At break of day
He set aside his grave-clothes. Your new birth
Came like a daybreak too, naked and true
To poverty and to the gospel call,
You woke to Christ and Christ awoke in you
And set to work through all your love and skill
To make our ruin good, to bless and heal
To wake the Christ in us and make us whole.

Irish Cancer Society -Drivers Needed

The Irish Cancer Society is looking for volunteers to drive patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments. Drivers with free weekday availability and who can commit to driving twice a month, please email Gail at gflinter@irishcancer.ie or call 01 2310 566 for an application form. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus we are seeking drivers under the age of 70 years.

The Sunday Obligation

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

COVID-19 Support Line for Older People

ALONE manage 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 seven days a week, 8am - 8pm, by calling 0818 222 024.



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 **Bridget 085 2812985 (between 6.00pm & 8.00pm) from 4th October - 10th October** If there is no reply please leave your first name and phone number. Or you can email the parish office stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com and your message will be forwarded to Bethany Group. This is a free and confidential service.

Scripture Note – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

History is littered with stories of good tenants and wicked landlords. In the Gospel we have a story of wicked tenants and a good landlord. The parable is an allegory of God's dealings with his people. The landowner is God. The vineyard is Israel. The wicked tenants are the people of Israel, but more especially the religious leaders who have been given charge of the vineyard by God. The servants are the prophets sent by God and so often rejected and killed. The son is Jesus himself whom they killed.

Like the parable of the two sons, this parable was directed at the chief priests and elders. It was meant as a warning, but it went unheeded. The tenants came to a bad end, Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Gentiles replaced the Jews as God's people. All this would have been clear to Matthew's readers. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

Living the Paschal Mystery

God is amazingly resilient despite human forces and frailties that constantly thwart the divine plan for salvation. Nothing – not even sparing the life of the divine Son – deters God from offering us a rich heritage in divine life itself. For our part, we are to be faithful tenants who rejoice in our heritage and acknowledge that we have been given far more than we expect or deserve. (Source: Living Liturgy)