

This is how we get to know Jesus today – by living as he did, by embracing the dying so we rise with him to new life, and by recognising him in and through others. (Source: *Living Liturgy*)

Finally, I would like to thank in advance all the hard work and preparation by the choir, folk group, ministry teams, volunteers and sacristans as we journey this week towards the Easter Triduum. I hope that you find the Liturgies beautiful and prayerful.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am In honour & thanksgiving of St Joseph

Mon 10.00am Alan Leech

Tues 8.00am Anthony Casciani

Tues 10.00am Tom Nulty

Wed 8.00am Lily Scallon

Wed 10.00am Jeanette & John Boyle

Sat 9.00pm Easter Mass Bouquet Cards

Sun 8.30am Easter Mass Bouquet Cards

Sun 11.00 Easter Mass Bouquet Cards

Sun 12.30pm Easter Mass Bouquet Cards

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

Next Friday, Good Friday, The Stations of the Cross at 12:00 will incorporate the 'Do this is Memory' programme for the children from Holywell Educate Together NS preparing for First Holy Communion.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently

Gerry Foley
Patricia O'Connor

St Colmcille's Park
Grace Park Rd Dublin 9



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Today we hear the account of the passion according to Mark. On Friday we shall hear John's. Mark's story of the passion is dominated by two questions: What happens to the disciples? What happens to Jesus? The disciples who were called to be with him at the beginning of the Gospel, all forsook him and fled. And Jesus in this cruel and shocking presentation is portrayed as one alone, alone in suffering and alone in power to save. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at - The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." Date of next meeting (March 26th . Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

The **Crosscare Annual Youth Services** Church Collection took place at all Masses last weekend 17th & 18th March. Crosscare are extremely grateful for all who generously donated on the day. Given the bad weather over the weekend, many parishioners may not have been able to attend Mass. Should you wish to make a donation to Crosscare they have advised that they can accept donations over the phone on (01) 836 0011, or by post to Crosscare, 2ND floor, Clonliffe College, Drumcondra, Dublin 3.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

Passion (Palm) Sunday

HOLY WEEK

"Hosanna to the Son of David"

Newsletter Sunday 25th March 2018



How easy it is to misunderstand who someone is! The crowd who "went out to meet" Jesus as he came to Jerusalem for the feast thought they knew who he was, as indicated by their acclamation: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the king of Israel". Never mind that the crowd still misunderstood the identity and mission of the Messiah. Never mind that they were still looking to participate in the restoration of the Davidic kingdom, which would surely be a sign of God's favour and redemption. Never mind that they joyfully gave themselves over to something (earthly kingdom) that was actually much less than was being offered (God's kingdom). Despite all their misunderstanding, they were still drawn in by the event of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Though drawn to the event, they missed the point of who Jesus really was.

Who reveals the real identity of Jesus? Ironically, in Mark's passion account it is from enemies and foreigners that we come to understand who Jesus is. The religious leaders ask Jesus if he is "the Christ, the son of the Blessed One."

Pilate condemns him because he is the "king of the Jews." But the Roman centurion confesses this man to be "the Son of God." Later the faith of the early community who had encountered the risen Lord understood Jesus' identity with ever greater depth: he is the humble One, the obedient One, the exalted One, the Lord, and the Glory of God (*2nd Reading*)

How is it we come to know and understand who Jesus is? Through our prayer, participating in the liturgy, and our study of Scripture. And also through the goodness of others, the mercy and forgiveness of others when we've done wrong and the compassion and care of others when we are hurting. Jesus is ever revealed to us in new and greater depth. As we stand this day at the foot of the cross, what do we come to understand about who Jesus is? It is only by our own entry into Jesus' dying and rising – into the mystery that we celebrate this most holiest of weeks – that we can truly discover who he is.

The incredible contrast in moods between the two gospels proclaimed in this Sunday's liturgy captures well the broad dynamic of the paschal mystery. The triumph with which we begin this Sunday is the triumph we celebrate next Sunday: the glory of the Lord shining forth for all to see and share. Sandwiched between is the scandal and ignominy of the cross. What seemed to end in utter failure rises in complete glory.

Christ showed us by his own way of living and ministry that the only way to share in his glory is to die to self by becoming servants and disciples following him to the cross. The only way to enjoy the passionate glory of risen life is to suffer the risk of dying. All of this is something that takes place more than just once a year. It is the everyday of our ordinary human living, when we choose responding to another instead of ignoring him or her, having patience rather than snapping and talking things through rather than staying angry. The paschal mystery unfolds in the little things in life that we turn into big ways to say yes to the Christ in others.

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*



Sacrament of Confirmation – Scoill an Duinninigh

Congratulations to the boys and girls from Scoill an Duinninigh who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Wednesday. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Noirin Ni Laighin (Principal) and Ms Aine Nic Craith and Ms. Aoife Smeaton (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The school choir was lovely. I thank also Mr. Dan McDermott, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-24th March, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 1

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

The dates and times of the Holy Week ceremonies, in Swords and Drynam, including confessions are on the Easter cards distributed to your homes and on the notice boards in the churches. As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to participate as much as possible in the Parish Ceremonies, especially the Triduum. ***The readings and liturgies are powerful, so please do come along.*** The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is usually the least well attended liturgy and it is a beautiful Mass. On Good Friday, if for work or other reason you cannot make the 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, please make sure to visit some church and venerate the cross. You then have the option of the Solemn Vigil or the Easter Sunday Mass.

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2018

The three Parishes in Swords have arranged buses to Knock for the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. The buses will leave at 7:30am on Saturday 21st April. Cost of the bus is €20 and Children under 16 €10 Please bring a Packed Lunch – Tea & Coffee available in St. John's Centre, Knock. Bus will stop for 15 minutes on the way down and back.

To book please contact Colette at the Parish Office



Easter Cards

The Easter cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Holy Week

1. Palm Sunday

In Holy Week we celebrate the Mystery of our Salvation in Jesus Christ. These final days in the earthly life of Christ begin with his triumphal entry into the Holy City, Jerusalem. The liturgy of Palm Sunday too begins with this joyful entry into Jerusalem, the procession of Palm branches. These branches are not simply blessed objects, but signs of joyful participation in this procession and an expression of the faith of the Church in Christ. Later, during the Liturgy of the Word, we listen attentively to the account of the Passion – glory and suffering, the characteristic which is present throughout the entirety of Holy Week.

(Source: Glenstal Sunday Missal)

2. Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is I believe a powerful Liturgy, in particular because of the Lord's Mandate to Peter concerning the washing of feet. I would like to do this as part of the Liturgy. It is a liturgical action – *the feet are already clean!!* I invite you to consider volunteering. Please do not be afraid or shy! We need about 6 people. Please leave your name in the sacristy or accept the invitation. Thank you

3. The Holy Oils

The Holy oils of Baptism (Catechumens), Chrism and the oil of the sick are blessed by the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass in the Pro-Cathedral on Holy Thursday morning. These oils are then sent to the Parishes to be used in the administration of the sacraments for the coming year. The oils represent our initiation into the life of grace and into the Church in Baptism and Confirmation. The oils represent the special consecration of priestly ministry. They represent the community, which brings Christ's care in a special way to the sick and those at the end of their life. These oils remind us that the Church is the community within which we realise how our entire life is embraced by the loving care of God

4. Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

At this Mass, 7.30pm this coming Thursday, the Ministers of the Eucharist in Swords renew their dedication to this Ministry. I hope as many as possible can attend this Mass

Confessions

1. Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about a guilt-trip. Rather, it is about unburdening. The Lord invites us to receive from him 'rest for our souls' (Mt 11:29) so that he may set us free (Lk 4:18) that we may continue to seek to live 'life to the full' (Jn 10:10). Jesus is encountered in and through the Sacrament. The Lenten/Easter Reconciliation service takes place in **St. Colmeille's Swords on Monday 26th March at 7.30pm** and in **St. Cronan's Brackenstown on Tuesday 27th March at 7.30pm**

2. Pope Francis on Confession:

The Bishop of Rome emphasised that the priest does not only represent God, but rather the community as a whole, and that anyone who seeks to confess only to God should remember that our sins are also committed against our brothers and against the Church, which is why it is necessary to ask forgiveness from them too, and to be ashamed for what we have done. "Shame can be good", he affirmed; "It is good for us to have a certain amount of shame, because to be ashamed can be healthy. When someone has no shame, in my country we describe them as "sin verguenza", shameless. Shame can be good as it can make us humble, and the priest receives this confession with love and tenderness, and forgives in the name of God. Also from a human point of view, to unburden oneself, it is good to speak with a brother and to tell the priest those things which lie so heavily upon our hearts. And one feels unburdened before God, with the Church, and with a brother. Do not be afraid of Confession!