

“And finally, Mary acts. Her words, 'Do whatever he tells you', addressed to the attendants, are also an invitation to us to open our hearts to Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served. Service is the sign of true love. Those who love know how to serve others. We learn this especially in the family, where we become servants out of love for one another. In the heart of the family, no one is rejected; all have the same value. I remember once how my mother was asked which of her five children – we are five brothers – did she love the most. And she said: it is like the fingers on my hand, if I prick one of them, then it is as if the others are pricked also. A mother loves her children as they are. And in the family, children are loved as they are. None are rejected.



*Continued next week.*

**Fr. Michael Carey**

**Mass Intentions for this coming week St Colmcille's**

Mon 10.00am Peter McNally

Mon 10.00am Molly Hatch

Tues 8.00am Cillian & Danny Webb

Tues 10.00 Adrienne Byrne

Wed 8.00am George Fields

Wed 10.00am Sarah Jane & Tony Reddington

Thurs 8.00

Thurs 10.00am Michael John Reilly

Fri 8.00am

Fri 10.00am Liam Whelan

Sat 6.30pm Tom Gavillet

Sun 8.30am Willie Howard

Sun 11.00am Anthony & Kathleen Gargan

Sun 6.30pm Rose Brennan

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Renee Reilly**

**Formerly of Swords**



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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Mon & Fri:9.20am. Sun, 10.00am11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon**

Bo Peep Montessori are continuing to use the Drynam Church Hall in the mornings for the summer. They have a Summer Camp for young children..



**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Christ takes pity on the great crowd and begins to teach them at length. The motivating factor here is one of mercy. Jesus takes pity on the crowd just as he takes pity on us. The lesson he teaches his disciples in all of this is one of tenderness and love for his people. He is the model pastor, the good shepherd who never leaves his flock untended. He is moved by love and fatherly concern.

**Open Information Day to highlight the awareness of stuttering:** Saturday 25th July 2015, 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1. Admission Free.

**The Readers Roster for August & September and Eucharistic Ministers Roster for August are now available at the back of the Church and on the Parish Website**

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948**

**Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277**

**(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)**

**Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)**

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



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**THE FAMILY – THE BEST IS YET TO COME**

*“See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul”*



**Newsletter Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

In a recent homily Pope Francis spoke beautifully about the family and based it on the text of the ‘Wedding Feast at Cana’ and the role of Our Lady. I will write the next two newsletters on what the Pope said. It offers lovely insights.

“The wedding at Cana is repeated in every generation, in every family, in every one of us and our efforts to let our hearts find rest in strong love, fruitful love and joyful love. Let us make room for Mary, 'the Mother' as the evangelist calls her. Let us journey with her now to Cana.

“Mary is attentive, she is attentive in the course of this wedding feast, she is concerned for the needs of the newly-weds. She is not closed in on herself, worried only about her little world. Her love makes her 'outgoing' towards others. She does not seek her friends to say what is happening, to criticise the poor organisation of the wedding feast. And since she is attentive, she discretely notices that the wine has run out. Wine is a sign of happiness, love and plenty. How many of our adolescents and young people sense that these is no longer any of that wine to be found in their homes? How many women, sad and lonely, wonder when love left, when it slipped away from their lives? How many elderly people feel left out of family celebrations, cast aside and longing each day for a little love, from their sons and daughters, their grandchildren, their great grandchildren? This lack of this 'wine' can also be due to unemployment, illness and difficult situations which our families around the world may experience. Mary is not a 'demanding' mother, nor a mother-in-law who revels in our lack of experience, our mistakes and the things we forget to do. Mary, quite simply, is a Mother! She is there, attentive and concerned. It is gratifying to hear this: Mary is a Mother! I invite you to repeat this with me: Mary is a Mother! Once again: Mary is a Mother! And once more: Mary is a Mother!

“But Mary, at the very moment she perceives that there is no wine, approaches Jesus with confidence: this means that Mary prays. She goes to Jesus, she prays. She does not go to the steward, she immediately tells her Son of the newly-weds' problem. The response she receives seems disheartening: 'What does it have to do with you and me? My hour has not yet come'. But she nonetheless places the problem in God's hands. Her deep concern to meet the needs of others hastens Jesus' hour. And Mary was a part of that hour, from the cradle to the cross. She was able 'to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love'. She accepted us as her sons and daughters when the sword pierced her son's heart. She teaches us to put our families in God's hands; she teaches us to pray, to kindle the hope which shows us that our concerns are also God's concerns.

“Praying always lifts us out of our worries and concerns. It makes us rise above everything that hurts, upsets or disappoints us, and helps to put ourselves in the place of others, in their shoes. The family is a school where prayer also reminds us that we are not isolated individuals; we are one and we have a neighbour close at hand: he or she is living under the same roof, is a part of our life, and is in need.

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## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – “The Lord is gracious and merciful...he gives food to those who fear him.”*



### New Safes

We now have four new ‘top of the range – state of the art’ (*Ok a bit OTT*), safes in St. Colmcille’s. Prior to this only two were operational and the old one at St. Anthony was prone to a spot of theft. Two safes are at the top of the Church beside the shrines. The third is beside St. Anthony and the fourth is under the book rack. Talking of the book rack, the Parish is invoiced for the newspapers, pamphlets and books on sale, so if you are taking/buying one please put the money in the safe. The price is clearly marked on the book/pamphlet. If you want to throw in a few cents for the cost of the misallette, I won’t object.

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The society is in urgent need of volunteers. Ever think of volunteering? It’s a wonderful way to give something back. 3 or 4 hours a week is all that is required. Volunteers needed for home visitations and Vincent’s shops. Please contact Siobhan Tyrell at 01-8198414 or siobhan.tyrell@svpeast.ie

### 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

### Rosminian Missions

If you remember last March, Fr. Emilian and Fr. Frank spoke at our Masses about their ministry and placed envelopes at the back of our churches. They have written to me, thanking the Parish for our hospitality and generosity. The amount collected was Swords: €3012 and Drynam: €1400. They assure us of their continued prayers.

Catholic Grandparents Association would like to encourage Parishes everywhere to celebrate the vocation of Grandparents, particularly on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July which is the Feast Day of St Joachim & St Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. To that end I invite grandparents to bring their grandchildren to Mass on this day. We all know that Grandparents’ play a vital role of passing on the faith, and keeping prayer at the heart of family life.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE The doctrine of the invisible church leads quite logically to the doctrine of invisible religion, and the next step is necessarily the disappearance of religion.. Paul de Legarde 1827-1891, German philosopher

Youth 2000 Summer Festival, Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary from Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015. For young people aged 16-35, this is a great opportunity to find out what your Catholic faith is all about in a friendly, chilled out atmosphere. The festival is donation only. Free buses available from all around Ireland. For more info and to book online, see [www.youth2000.ie](http://www.youth2000.ie) or phone 01 6753690

## St. Colmcille’s Annual Pilgrimage to Knock Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Depart from the Star Pub at 8am. Stopping off for light breakfast on outward bound journey and on the return journey Carvery Dinner. Both at the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. Cost of the coach is €15. For further details contact Mary @ 087-2711376, or Ita @ 01-8402268

### Sheep without a shepherd

Lord, look upon us and take pity on us,  
for at times we too are like sheep.  
Save us from a blind following of the herd.  
Help us to listen to your voice,  
to trust you and to follow you,  
even if it means leaving the crowd  
and walking a lonely path.



Lead us from fear to trust, from error o truth,  
from hate to love, from war to peace,  
from despair to hope, and from death to life. Amen (*Source: Flor McCarthy SDB*)

## St Vincent De Paul Uniform Sale

Saint Vincent De Paul Shop in Swords are holding the annual ‘Back to School Uniforms etc.’ sale in their shop at Castle Shopping Centre, Swords on **Wednesday 22nd July at 11.00am**

### Feasts this Week.

**St. Mary Magdalene – Wednesday 22nd July.** Stood by the Cross of Jesus; with two other women she discovered the empty tomb; she was granted an appearance of the Risen Lord early the same day, from which incident she has been described as ‘the apostle to the apostles’. The Gospels give no warrant for identifying her with the ‘woman who was a sinner’ who anointed Christ’s feet (Lk.7:37) or with Mary the sister of Martha who anointed him (Jn.12:3). Tradition relates that she spent her last years as a hermit in Provence (France).

**St. Bridget of Sweden, religious, Patron of Europe – Thursday 23rd July** was born in Sweden in 1303. She brought up eight children, and after the death of her husband dedicated herself to an ascetical life. Later she founded the Bridgettine Order and lived in Rome. She wrote many works about her mystical experiences. She died in Rome in 1373. She was declared a patron of Europe in 2000.

**St. James, Apostle – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**, son of Zebedee and brother of John, called the Greater. He was one of the three apostles, along with St. Peter and St. John, who witnessed the Transfiguration (Mt.17:1) and the agony in the Garden (Mt.16:37). He was put to death by Herod Agrippa about the year 44, being the first of the apostles to die for Christ. His shrine is at Compostella in Spain

**Ss. Joachim and Anne– Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord. An old tradition going back to the second century gives these names. They remind us that the Word truly became flesh in a particular family. Our devotion to them is an extension of our love of Mary and her Divine Son. *Not celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday.*