

The parish cannot simply outsource to agencies the task of marriage preparation and that of accompanying couples along the path of their lives.

Amoris Laetitia is an encyclopaedic document which contains an extraordinary wealth of pastoral advice. There is a unifying thread: the Gospel of the family is challenging and demanding, but which, with the grace of God and his mercy, is attainable and fulfilling, enriching and worthwhile. Like the document itself, the path to realising the commandment of love in married life will not be attained through a rushed reading of the realities of each individual life, but through an enriching path marked often by failure: not “a never falling down”, but “an always getting up again, thanks to this hand which catches us”.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Betty Kenny	Sat 10.00am Deceased members of Geraty & McGreevy Families
Mon 10.00 Colm McIvor	
Tues 8.00am Sr Helen Fitzpatrick	Dessie O’Keefe (1st An)
Tues 10.00am Marie Clarke	Stephen Lucy (1st An)
Wed 8.00am Terry Hynes	Sat 6.30am Dominic King
Wed 10.00am Maria O’Dwyer	
Thurs 8.00am Rita Peters	Sun 8.30am James Fitzsimons
Thurs 10.00am Pat Barnwell	Sun 11.00am Peggy Dillon
Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	Joseph Ryan 1st An
Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead	Sun 6.30pm Edward Garrigan

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon .

Work is progressing on the renovations and upgrades to bring the old church back into operation. We plan to have Mass there next Sunday 3rd December.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, - King of the Universe

“King” is a foundational metaphor in the Bible, which in ordinary usage suggests power and glory. But even in the ancient biblical tradition, there are two great modifications. According to an Old Testament vision, a king is meant to be a shepherd to his people, a true shepherd who cares for and who knows and even loves his sheep. According to a New Testament vision, Jesus our king rules paradoxically by loving service, humility and the gift of himself. This example and teaching of Jesus has lost none of its power today.

Prayer - Jesus, King of the Universe, may your kingdom come here on earth as it is in heaven. Grant us the grace that we may be your loyal subjects. You alone have the words of eternal life. Draw us to you so that by following in your footsteps and renouncing ourselves, we may seek only your holy will. (Source: St. Paul’s Missal)



A Date for your Diary

On the weekend of 9th/10th December will be the St. Vincent de Paul annual Christmas appeal replacing the Share collection

We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord.

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)

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

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

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

“To him belong glory and power for ever and ever”

Newsletter Sunday 26th November 2017



Today we honour Christ the king who is enthroned in eternal glory. It is a kingship of service and not one of power. He lives among us, and came not to rule but to serve. The best way of showing our loyalty to him is by serving one another. When we relate to others we should not begin by judging their negative aspects first but instead looking for the good in them. This can be carried out in such a simple Christian practice as seeking always to compliment rather than to criticise another. Taking care not to spread gossip is another way. Thus do we build up the Body of Christ and bring honour to Christ our King who dwells in ourselves and others. Thus do we see the face of Christ our King in everyone we meet.

The World Meeting of Families (WMOF)

Finishing the Archbishop’s reflection on the Pope’s document *Amoris Laetitia*, ‘The Joy of Love’, as part of the Parish’s remote preparation, if you like, on the World Meeting of Families which is being held in Dublin next year from August 22nd to 26th. The theme is **“The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World.”**

Pope Francis’ position is that of a theology which recognises human failure but is also capable of leading us forwards on the path to fulfilling the commandment of love. It is when we recognise our own human limitations that we understand the other and not rush to judgement. The Pope says “We have to realise that all of us are a complex mixture of light and shadows and [that] love coexists with imperfection”. The secret of married love lies not in me getting what I want, but in me realising my own limitations and not being judgemental of the other.

He criticises a culture of revenge and retaliation within marriage in a lengthy quote from Martin Luther King which, by the way, could well be applied to those in our society who feel that violence is a sign of strength. “Somewhere somebody must have a little sense and that is the strong person. The strong person is the person who can cut off the chain of hate, the chain of evil”.

Much of the document addresses how married love can grow despite human weakness. “Love is destroyed by the culture of the ephemeral which prevents a constant process of growth... A love that fails to grow is at risk. Often a spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard, to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their fear their anger, their hopes and dreams”

He addresses the theme of sexuality not in a condemnatory tone but neither in a libertarian context: “Sexuality is not means of gratification or entertainment; it is an interpersonal language wherein the other is taken in his or her sacred and inviolable dignity”. The document addresses at length what is required for a real renewal of pastoral care within the Church. He stresses the role of the parish as being the primary place where that renewal should take place. This is perhaps the biggest practical challenge that we face in the Irish Church.

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*



Commitment ceremony

This week the boys and girls from Scoil an Duinnínigh will celebrate their first liturgy on their journey to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. The liturgy is a beautiful and simple Ceremony of Commitment. They will celebrate it in their school hall on Wednesday 29th November at 1.00pm.

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

Congratulations

I see from a 'flyer' that came through my letterbox that JC's (supermarket) is celebrating its 40th anniversary. On behalf of myself and the Parish I'd like to congratulate this now 'famous' Swords institution a very happy anniversary and may there be many more to come.

Next Sunday

Sunday 3rd December is the first Sunday of Advent, it is the beginning of the Church's new year and a time of preparation for the Christmas Season

Garda Vetting

More forms have gone into Archbishop's house. Be on the lookout next week in your inbox or spam for the next stage of the process. Again I thank you for your co-operation.

Christmas Draw 2017

Tickets will be on sale this weekend in the church St. Colmcille's is having its 2nd Christmas draw this year and as usual the Parish Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 3rd December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

1st Prize €1000

2nd Prize €300

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €2 each and a book of 3 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 18/19th November, 25th/26th November & 2nd/3rd December. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office on Seatown Road. **To summarise:**

- **Draw on 3rd December**
- **The cost of a ticket is €2 or 3 for €5**
- **Good Prizes**
- **Please Help**

If you have been contacted to sell tickets, you can pick them up in the Sacristy and thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to sell tickets.

CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE

The Dublin Diocesan Advent Service, with Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, takes place this year in St. Gabriel's Church, St. Gabriel's Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3 on Saturday 2nd December at 4 p.m. An invitation to prepare for Advent as a Family.

Raffle tickets-Christmas Draw

The take up by people of books of tickets for sale to relatives, friends and work colleagues is low compared to last year. If you feel able to do this these tickets can be collected from the Sacristy. I thank all who have bought tickets so far at the back of the Church and a special thank you to those who sold tickets in JC's. They were long days for you!!

Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

Diary - 2018

As indicated in past week's newsletter there will be changes regarding the Saturday mornings in 2018. I wrote a series of newsletters about why this very minor change is necessary and what it is preparing for. It is based on a document approved by the Irish Bishop's Conference at their meeting of September 2015 called 'IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE – gathered on a weekday when the Eucharist is not celebrated'.

I am introducing this so that as a parish we can gather as the local faith community to pray and give worship to God when the priest is absent. Within the next few years, it is the weekday that is fragile in terms of daily Mass. If and when a priest is absent it does not mean that the parish community cannot give prayer and worship to God and the Church has other forms of worship apart from the Mass especially its Divine Office – Morning (Lauds) and Evening (Vespers) Prayer. Please pray for the success of this initiative.

Rosary on the Coast.

Sunday 26th November is the feast of 'Christ the King' and pm this day around the country on all our coasts The Rosary will be prayed for the protection of family and life in our country. For the people of Swords our designated coast is the 'Estuary' at 2.30pm. We assemble near the sailing club at 2.15pm. Please join us for this wonderful occasion and let us give our families and country back to the rightful owner 'Christ the King'. Thank you *Mary, Fingal for Life*

St. Maur's Parish Pastoral Council, Rush, present Liam Lawton in concert "O Holy Night." At St. Maur's Church Rush on Sunday December 3rd 2017 at 8pm. Tickets €20. We look forward to sharing this very special evening with you. Tickets available from the office, 01 8949464, Monday to Friday 9am – 11am or after the weekend Masses.

The Old Borough N.S Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday Dec 2nd at school on Church Road next to Old Schoolhouse Pub from 12-3pm. €2 entry for adults. Children free. Even Santa will be there from 1pm....private visit with selection box (tickets at door)