

requires the creation of beings (organisms) that evolve.”Quantum Theory suggests that in an infinite number of universes, anything is possible (“everything that can happen, does happen”) and that our beautiful, life-sustaining earth just happened as a result of one of those infinite number of possibilities. Einstein, in rejecting the “Uncertainty Principle”, a theory that the universe is governed by blind chance, attested that “*the Old One (God) does not play dice with the universe*”. Lord Martin Rees, Master of Trinity College Cambridge and President of the Royal Society, has written a fascinating book called *Just Six Numbers*. In it he shows that there are just six mathematical constants which determine the physical shape of the universe. Had any one of them been even slightly different, the universe as we know it would not exist, nor would life. Can any rational being believe that all this just happened by blind chance? The probability of such a thing must be practically zero. Incidentally, Blaise Pascal, the actual inventor of Probability Theory, gave up mathematics and science at the age of thirty in order to devote the rest of his life to the exploration of religious faith. (*Written by Peter McDermott, former Teacher at St. Aidan’s Whitehall*)

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Rony Benas	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Dec members of Nugent Family
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Paddy Scully	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm John & Mary Mulligan
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Nora & Louis Kennelly	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Madeline Parkinson
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Selina Cronin	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Laura & Denis O’Sullivan
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Special Intention	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm Liam Gargan
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Brian Multy	
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Harry Noctor	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00 Mary Greenan	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Ian P Counihan	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Joseph Shields	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**  
**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am/11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon , No weekday Masses until 18th July**

Certificates have been presented to the children of Holywell Educate Together School on completion of their Religious Education this year. Congratulations to the children, their RE teachers, the Parents Association and members of the Drynam Pastoral Team who coordinated this important work.



**A Father’s Day Prayer**

Lord, please take care of our dads.  
 Though they are brave and protective,  
 they must also be frightened sometimes.  
 When money runs low and when we need things,  
 Lord, when their hearts break because they can't do it all;  
 Please help us to let them know how much we love them.  
 And how much You love them.

**Amen!**



**Swords Senior Citizens AGM** will be held on monday 27th June at 8pm in Senior Citizens Centre, Chapel Lane. All welcome, refreshments will be served

**The Parish Pastoral Collection**

This outdoor collection takes place after all Masses this Sunday. Please support, as all funds go to the Parish Hopefully I have two collectors for each Mass

**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**



12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The Reality of Doubt, the Use of Reason, the Gift of Faith (1)**

*“The Lord is the strength of his people”*

**Newsletter Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Many good people can be besieged by doubts about their faith. In this country at present it’s just not cool to be a Believer and people’s faith is under constant attack from a secular society and a rather hostile media. Various personalities (some of whom are simply famous for being famous) proudly affirm that they are “spiritual” but deny the existence of a personal God. When assailed by such a constant barrage of disbelief, agnosticism and even nihilism, it is no wonder that many staunch Christians may feel that their faith is being undermined. Various scientific discoveries can also seem to make religious belief belong to the realm of fantasy. People who have lived all their lives according to a “simple faith” may feel ill-equipped to counter the clever and seemingly sophisticated arguments of younger, more highly educated opponents. The Big Bang Theory, the Theory of Evolution and Quantum Theory, all seemed to dispense with the need for a creator. God gave us the gift of Reason and we should use it. As Hamlet said “*sure He that made us with such large discourse ... gave us not that capability and godlike reason to be in us unus’d*”. Leonardo Da Vinci urged us to “rejoice that our Creator has endowed us with such an excellent instrument as the intellect.” Charles Darwin described humans as having a “god-like intellect.” So, first, let us look at the logical, rational arguments for the existence of God.

It was a Catholic priest, the renowned astronomer and physicist, Georges Lemaître, who first proposed the big Bang theory in 1931. His theory, which is now accepted by nearly all astronomers today, postulated that the universe is constantly expanding and that it started with the explosion of a single particle (what he called the “primeval atom”) at a definite point in time. This, of course, is totally consistent with the idea of a Creator. Who created the “primeval atom” and who or what caused the explosion? Darwin’s theory of Evolution disproved only *one*, rather simplistic, “creation by design” theory, i.e. Paley’s analogy of God as the Great Watchmaker. This concept, which suggests that all of nature was created in the finalised form which we see today, is now proven to be absurd. Darwin himself was at pains to point out that his theory only contradicted this one, particularly flawed, theory of creation by design. While Darwin’s theory is still seen in some quarters as incompatible with Christianity, Catholic theologians and scientists have come to see it as evidence of God’s creative dynamism. God’s wonderful Creation contained within itself the potential to evolve, the seeds of growth which would produce remarkable diversity. As Jonathan Sacks says “God did not create a static universe... he introduced into the very mechanism by which life reproduces itself, the genome, the tiny possibility of copying errors that results in variety and new biological possibilities. The God who chose to create our universe is one who delights in creativity. A universe in which life evolves is more creative than one in which life forms never change”. Many theologians argue that God is “a God of infinite diversity.” Pope Francis himself, speaking in October 2015, said “Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of creation, because evolution



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)*

### Swords Jubilee of Mercy Pilgrim Walk

We set off, about a hundred pilgrims from St. Colmcille's Church and by the time we reached St. Finian's, River Valley, two and a quarter hours later, it was about one hundred and thirty. It was a wonderful occasion, with new sites for some of us especially in Brackenstown Parish. As we walked through housing estates it was wonderful to see the curiosity of children looking on intently and some who approached us and asked, 'what's this about'? Our walk consisted of seven stops/stations and at each station we reflected on one of the seven corporal works of mercy. I thank the organising committee drawn from the various Parish Pastoral Councils who organised this wonderful and prayerful initiative.

### Golf Classic-2016

This year was the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Classic. It was a tremendous success and all participants enjoyed it – mind you I spoke to some players who are going to change their team next year!! On behalf of the Parish I want to sincerely thank and commend the organising committee who did such a marvellous job and gave an enormous amount of their time and talents: **John Campbell; Susan Rallo; Jack and Maura Moore; Ann and Paddy Farrell and Pat Lynch.** I also thank the people who entered teams; the people who sponsored holes and the people who contributed prizes for the raffle. Many tickets were sold for the raffle. One weekend was set aside for the sale of tickets at the weekend Masses and then in the lead up to the classic and well as on the day itself. Thank you to the 'Mass' ticket sellers as well as what I will call the constant sellers – Caitriona Farrell and Paddy Gerrard. I also thank Peter O'Brien who tied up all the loose ends and was an invaluable help with the Golf Club and Tim Ralph who spent the day taking photographs. Finally I thank Forrest Little Golf club for the use of their excellent facilities and for their great hospitality and congratulations to all who won prizes and supported the raffle.

### St. Colmcille's BNS

Last Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June the Archbishop visited the Boys' School to mark their Golden Jubilee. The visit began with Mrs. Veronica McDermott, Chairperson of the Board of Management welcoming his Grace, who then presided over a liturgy of Prayer and Blessing for the School. Water from St. Colmcille's well was used for the blessing. The Archbishop was then thanked by Mr. Kieran Lyons, the School Principal who then brought the Archbishop to visit a number of classrooms. After the visitation the Archbishop enjoyed some light refreshments with the Teaching and Ancillary staff. These refreshments were provided free of charge by Supervalu to mark the golden jubilee and the visit by the Archbishop-Supervalu staff also served up the light lunch. The Archbishop was delighted with the school and the boys were excellent especially the 5<sup>th</sup> Class choir and the readers and symbol bearers during the Liturgy. Also in attendance were members of the Board of Management, the Parents committee and Sr. Mary and Fr. Peter. It was a lovely hour and a half.

### Folk Group

The Folk group broke up for the summer holidays last Saturday. I'd like to thank them for their wonderful contribution to the Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. Their music and song beautifully enhances this Mass. I hope they all enjoy the summer and look forward to their return mid September.

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)** The PPC will meet on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm in the Parochial House



### Year of Mercy – criminal organisations and corruption

The nineteenth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericordiae Vultus' continues - May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. I direct this invitation to conversion even more fervently to those whose behaviour distances them from the grace of God. I particularly have in mind **men and women belonging to criminal organisations** of any kind. For their own good, I beg them to change their lives. I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner. Do not fall into the terrible trap of thinking that life depends on money and that, in comparison with money, anything else is devoid of value or dignity. This is nothing but an illusion! We cannot take money with us into the life beyond. Money does not bring us happiness. Violence inflicted for the sake of amassing riches soaked in blood makes one neither powerful nor immortal. Everyone, sooner or later, will be subject to God's judgment, from which no one can escape.

The same invitation is extended to **those who either perpetrate or participate in corruption.** This festering wound is a grave sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance, because it threatens the very foundations of personal and social life. Corruption prevents us from looking to the future with hope, because its tyrannical greed shatters the plans of the weak and tramples upon the poorest of the poor. It is an evil that embeds itself into the actions of everyday life and spreads, causing great public scandal. Corruption is a sinful hardening of the heart that replaces God with the illusion that money is a form of power. It is a work of darkness, fed by suspicion and intrigue. Saint Gregory the Great said with good reason, affirming that no one can think himself immune from this temptation. If we want to drive it out from personal and social life, we need prudence, vigilance, loyalty, transparency, together with the courage to denounce any wrongdoing. If it is not combated openly, sooner or later everyone will become an accomplice to it, and it will end up destroying our very existence.

### Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00pm

This Mass (with the participation of the Choir) will take place in the Church - followed by Blessing of the Cemetery. If you want to 'hear', celebrate the Mass I invite you to come into the Church, or at least gather around the front door. There will be no use of a sound system that will reach the 'four corners' of the cemetery. The blessing of the Cemetery will take place immediately after Mass. As there is only Fr Pat and I, you will I hope understand, that, we will not be sprinkling individual graves – just sections of the graveyard. There will be large containers of 'Blessed Water' at the gates. You are invited to bring a small bottle/ container and fill it with this water and when the Cemetery is blessed you can sprinkle your family grave. As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery

***A request has gone out for Ministers of the Eucharist so we will be able to distribute Holy Communion around the Cemetery.***

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Patricia McGonagle**

Swords

**Patricia Caul**

St Colmcille's Park

