

“Indeed, we too, in spite of our intention to follow the Lord Jesus, experience every day the selfishness and hardness of our hearts. However, when we recognise ourselves as sinners, God fills us with His mercy and His love. This is what enables us to grow as the people of God, as a Church; it is not our cleverness, our merits, but rather the daily experience of how much the Lord loves and cares for us. This is what makes us truly feel that we are His, that we are in His hands, and it enables us to grow in communion with Him and among ourselves. Being Church means having a sense of being in the hands of God, Who is our father and loves us, Who awaits us”.

The Pope underlined that this is God's plan: “to form a people blessed by His love and able to bring his blessing to all populations on earth. This project does not change, and is always in process. It found its culmination in Christ, and God continues to carry it out in the Church to this day. Let us then ask the grace to remain faithful in following the Lord Jesus and in listening to His Word, ready to set out every day, like Abraham, towards the land of God and man, our true homeland, and thus to become a blessing and sign of God's love for all His children”.

*Fr. Michael Carey Adm*

**Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille’s:**

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon</b> 8.00am Anna Murphy   |                                      |
| <b>Mon</b> 10.00am JP Loughnane   | <b>Sat 6.30pm</b> Bridget Crosbie    |
| <b>Tues</b> 8.00am Agnes Donnelly   |                                      |
| <b>Tues</b> 10.00am Mass of Thanksgiving                                      | <b>Sun 8.30am</b> Mary Donnelly      |
| <b>Wed</b> 8.00 am Adrienne Byrne   |                                      |
| <b>Wed</b> 10.00am Paul O’Hare  | <b>Sun 11.30am</b> Anthony McQuillan |
| <b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Joseph & Catherine Jones &<br>Dec members of Jones Family |                                      |
| <b>Thurs</b> 10.00 am George & Elizabeth Fields                               | <b>Sun 7.30pm</b> Mary Rose Bonar    |
| <b>Fri</b> 8.00 Special intention   |                                      |
| <b>Fri</b> 10.00am Special intention  |                                      |
| <b>Sat</b> 10.00 am Molly Hatch   |                                      |

**Church of the Visitation Drynam      The Visitation of the BVM  
**Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri:9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am**  
**(Irish) & 12 noon.****

Work on the area surrounding Drynam church has been completed. Local farmer Paul Barnwall kindly ploughed the field for us earlier in the year and cultivation was completed by Peter O’Brien’s company in the last week to an excellent standard. The area has been transformed from an eyesore to a valuable resource for our parish.



**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently  
**Isobel Grogan                      Drynam Road**  
**Stephen Cleary                    Brackenstown, (Formerly Drynam Road)**



**Standing Orders.**

The Parish recently sent out requests to change standing order mandates as Danske Bank are closing this part of their business. Thanks you to all who have returned forms and for anyone who has not we would really appreciate if you could do so as soon as possible.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378; Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948  
 Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at 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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)



15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**BEING CHURCH MEANS HAVING A SENSE OF BEING IN GOD'S HANDS**



*“As for me, ..I shall be filled with the vision of your glory”*

**Newsletter Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

At a general audience in Rome last month Pope Francis spoke about the Church, “like a son who speaks about his mother, about his own family. The Church is not an institution that exists for its own ends, or a private association, an NGO; neither must she limit her view to the clergy or the Vatican. The Church is a far broader entity, open to all humanity, and not born unexpectedly. She was founded by Jesus but consists of a people with a long history behind them, prepared long before Christ Himself”.

“This story, or 'prehistory' of the Church, is already found in the pages of the Old Testament. According to the Book of Genesis, God chose Abraham ... and asked him to leave his earthly homeland behind to go towards another land, that He would show to him. But God did not call upon Abraham alone, as an isolated individual, but instead from the very beginning He involved all of his family, his relatives and all those who served in his house. ... The first important fact is this: starting with Abraham, God formed a people in order to bring His blessing to all families on earth. And Jesus was born within this population”.

The second element is that it was not Abraham who convoked the people around him. ... Typically man sought the divine, seeking to bridge the distance and invoking support and protection. In this case, however, we see something unprecedented: it was God Himself Who took the initiative and addressed His word to man, creating a bond and a new relationship with him. In this way God constitutes a people of all those who listen to His word and who set out on their path, trusting in Him. This is the sole condition: trusting in God. If you place your trust in God, listen to Him and set out on His path, this means being a Church. God's love precedes everything ... He precedes us. The prophet Jeremiah said that God was like the flower of the almond-tree, as it is the first tree that flowers in spring, meaning that God always flowers before us. When we arrive, He is already there waiting for us. ... He is always there before us”.

“Abraham and his family listened to the call of God and set out on their way. ... But this does not mean that they are always convinced and faithful. On the contrary, ever since the beginning there has been resistance, man has withdrawn into himself and his own interests, and has been tempted to bargain with God in order to solve problems on his own terms. There are the betrayals and sins that mark the path of the people throughout the history of salvation, which is the history of God's fidelity to His people, and the infidelity of the people of God. However, **God never tires**, He is patient and over time He continues to educate and form His people, like a father with his son. He maintains this same attitude with the Church”.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord."*



### Ordinary Time – cont'd

As I said last week Ordinary Time is about walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is by embracing the dying and rising mystery of Jesus that we receive the life of God within us and renew it each time we celebrate the liturgy.

Although much of ordinary Time unfolds during the summer months when many are on holidays, when the heat beings us to slow down our pace of life (*we hope!*), when there is a change in our pace of lives if for no other reason that 'school is out for summer', we must be careful that Ordinary Time doesn't become a temptation to 'holiday' from the demands of faithfully following Jesus.

### Congratulations!

Fr Damian McNeice, of the Liturgical Centre and Master of Ceremonies to the Archbishop has recently been elected as the Chair of the Dublin Council of Churches (DCC). He the first ever Catholic to hold the position in the Council's fifty year history. The DCC is an ecumenical fellowship encouraging co-operation between churches and inter-church groups, at both local and city level. Comprised of representatives from eleven different Christian denominations, the DCC seeks to explore ways of praying and working together for the fulfilment of Jesus' prayer 'that all may be one' [John 17:21].

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Most of us hear God's word proclaimed primarily during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass on Sundays..One way to deepen our gospel living is to take quality time each week – alone or with others – to sit with God's word and become attuned to the message. This is how we cultivate our hearts to hear God's word, so it is not wasted on barren hearts.

We also hear God's word through the words of others. A challenging remark that moves us to new action on behalf of others, a critical remark that causes us to look at our own behaviour and choices, a kind remark that brings us joy are all ways God's word comes to us, and ways we can sow the seed of God's word in the hearts of others. (*Source: Living Liturgy*)

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE** Walk with your feet on earth, but in your heart be in heaven.....St. John Bosco (1815-1888, patron saint of youth)

### Feast this past Week

**St. Benedict, Abbot and Patron of Europe – Friday 11th July.** Born c.480 and died c.547 and was educated in Rome. Turning his back on the worldliness, he retired to live as a hermit in a cave near Subiaco. He fame spread and disciples began to join him, whom he organised into twelve small monasteries. He eventually moved to Montecassino, where he founded the famous abbey, and produced his Rule, drawing on the monastic wisdom of the Christian East as well as earlier Western Rules and his own practical experience. He was proclaimed patron of Europe in 1964 by Pope Paul VI because of his essential influence in the formation of Christendom.

### Brackenstown, Rivervalley & Swords

#### Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage

**Sunday 7th – Friday 12th September 2014**

**Spiritual Leader Fr Michael Carey Adm.**

**Price: €669.00 per person sharing**

Price includes: Return flights Dublin Lourdes; Return airport transfers to Lourdes. 5 nights accommodation at Hotel Roissy (3\*); Full board basis; Services of a Travel representative in Lourdes Extras: Single room supplement €175.00 for duration of stay Airport taxes: €75.00 Insurance: €25.00 . Bookings: Parish Office, Colette, 8407277..



### St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday 9th August. Coach departs from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. Cost for coach only is €15. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. For booking contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 01 8402268

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - 8th September

9 day pilgrimage taking in all the major sites - Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. In addition to a local guide there is an Irish Spiritual Leader who will celebrate Mass each day at one of the sacred shrines.

Full details are available from MAP Travel (01) 8783111 or [www.maptravel.ie](http://www.maptravel.ie)

### Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parable of the sower is told twice, in an original form and in a later, Church interpretation. The explanation tends to dominate our reading; but it might be worthwhile allowing the original parable to "speak". It tells of small, even careless, beginnings – the sower scatters all over the place. As we see in nature, tiny seeds have an astonishing, miraculous effect. Go back over your own experience and recall something which began modestly but which in the end grew surprisingly. The reign of God is like that – the modest beginnings of Jesus' own preaching had tremendous effect.

**Prayer** - God of every harvest, it can be hard today to be confident about the Good News and yet we know that it is you who give the growth (1 Cor 3:7)

### We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Noah Paul Hawkins, Isabelle Lily McAuley, Lorcan John Byrne, Siún Marie Lynch, Dearbhla Marie O'Reilly, Ellie Catherine Warren