

The Ascension

By virtue of our callings as Christians, we are meant to be optimistic people, full of hope and deep rooted confidence and joy about our future. The ascension, which marks the final departure of Christ from his friends on earth, celebrates that hope.

Today's feast gives us a glimpse of the destiny that awaits us. As Christians we don't die direction-less. We die in the knowledge of where Christ has gone. He told us in John's Gospel that when he was lifted up from the earth, he would draw all people to himself. He began the process on the cross, which too was a lifting up from the earth and completes it in the Ascension. The cross and the Ascension are part of the same escalator, so to speak – one great sweeping act of salvation. We are children of the light, rising to new and everlasting life. The Lord has set a goal for us to aim at. And we know that it's a goal that we can reach. Our hearts are full of hope – where he has gone, we hope to follow.

The Ascension assures us that the longing for happiness and fullness of life which is deeply imprinted within every person can ultimately be fulfilled, that it will really happen.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Dec members of Birmingham Family	Sat 10.00am NO 10.00AM Mass
Mon 10.00am Kay Culleton	
Tues 8.00am Billy Rickard	Sat 6.30pm Joan McGee
Tues 10.00am In Honour of Our Lady	
Wed 8.00am Dec members of Kavanagh Family	
Wed 10.00 Kathleen Naidoo	Sun 8.30am Nora Hardy & Madden
Thurs 8.00am Mary Greenan	
Thurs 10.00 John Broderick	Sun 11.00am Margaret Dole May Hearn
Fri 8.00am Karen Byrne	
Fri 10.00am Kathleen Taylor	Sun 6.30pm James & Mary Stafford

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon , Mon & Tues 9.20am

Today we congratulate the first group of children from Holywell Educate Together School who receive their First Holy Communion at 12:00 Mass.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - (World Communications Day)

The Ascension marks the transition from the first part of the Easter season to the second. In the first, the emphasis was on the appearances of the risen Lord and on the identity of this same Lord with the Jesus of Nazareth who was with the disciples during his public life. Today marks the close of this stage when Jesus is no longer visibly present to his Church. He is now exalted, at God's right hand, and it is from there that he exercises his authority over heaven and earth.

Reflection - The Ascension is not an event to be thought about in isolation. It is part of the mystery of the resurrection. It is the means whereby Jesus is with each member of the Church in a way that would have been impossible had he remained in bodily form here on earth. The sadness of his leave taking is replaced by the joy of his sure presence until the end of time (*Source: St. Paul's Missal.*)

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Irene Bracken

Highfield Crescent



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



The Ascension of the Lord

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

"Praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 8th May 2016



This newsletter finishes the Spiritual Works of Mercy (*at last!*) Works of mercy can be directed not only toward the needs of the body, but the needs of the soul as well. Indeed, the most serious form of poverty of all can be the *poverty of the spirit*, not only because it drains life of all energy, joy, and sense of purpose, but also because it is the one kind of poverty that can last forever. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows:

- (1) *Admonish sinners.*
- (2) *Instruct the uninformed.*
- (3) *Counsel the doubtful.*
- (4) *Comfort the sorrowful.*
- (5) *Be patient with those in error.*
- (6) *Forgive offenses.*
- (7) *Pray for the living and the dead.*

Seventh: Pray for the Living and the Dead

Every day we are to bring our needs, the needs of our loved ones, and the needs of the whole world into the merciful Heart of Jesus.

Our works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual, will always appear inadequate compared to the needs of the world around us. But our Lord does not ask us to meet every need. We are only asked to do what we can and leave the rest to Him as He works out His loving plan for each human soul. Remember the "five loaves and two fish principle." Saint Andrew said to Jesus, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" (Jn 6:9). That meagre supply, when offered in faith to Jesus, was found to be enough to feed multitudes. So will our seemingly meagre efforts to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, guided by His Spirit and offered up to Jesus. He can work miracles with such little offerings. Some of those miracles we will never even see with our own eyes until we meet Him face-to-face in heaven. It is then when He will give us the grace to see what He sees; it is then when He will turn His loving gaze upon us and we will hear those blessed words from His own lips: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Mt 25:23)

- Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away
- Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers
- Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about
- Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

1st Holy Communion

Next Saturday, 14th May at 11am, the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day. Congratulations to the three special needs children who received their 1st Holy Communion, on Saturday 7th May in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam. *More in next week's newsletter.*



Youth Services - CYC

The annual collection for CROSSCARE, Youth Services – Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses next weekend 14th/15th May. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare reach out to young people who are in need by offering them support, encouragement and hope. The services provided are designed to help these young people fulfill their inherent God given potential (*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*)

Golf Classic – St. Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 10th June to raise funds for the re-decoration of our Parish Church of St. Colmcille. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event. If you wish to support this very worthy cause please contact John Campbell 087 9079245 or Susan Rallo 086 8152255

Medjugorje

Rev. Damian Polly OP is a native of River Valley and is due to be ordained priest this July. He is organising through Marian Pilgrimages an Ordination Thanksgiving Pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 20th July 2016 for 7 nights costing €599. If anyone is interested or needs further information you can contact www.marian.ie or telephone 01-8788159. See notice on board inside the Church

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 9th May. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

The Bible's Most Important People

Eve – Adam's wife, “the mother of all living” (Genesis 3.20). tempted by the serpent, Eve are the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and offered it to her husband, who also ate. Suddenly fearful of God because of their sin, they hid from Him. God placed a curse on Adam and Eve. God removed the couple from the Garden of Eden. Three of their children were named in the Bible – Cain and Abel, and after Cain murdered Abel, God gave them another child, Seth. Genesis 5:4 says they had “many other sons and daughters”

Lift up your hearts

The day of the Lord's triumphant return to his Father is not a day for narrowness or sadness. Rather, it is a day for openness and joy. Therefore, let us lift up our hearts. Let us raise up your minds. Let our spirits soar and be free. For sin and evil and death have been overcome. We know nothing of the mystery of the beyond. All we have is his word: ‘Where I am, you too will be.’ Lord, you have kindled in our hearts the hope of eternal life. Guard this hope with your grace, and bring it to fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven. (*Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB*)

A Migraine in the Workplace Information Seminar

will take place on Wednesday, 18th May 2016 From 7 – 9pm at the Maldron Hotel, Dublin airport. **Agenda:** ‘Migraine: an overview’ Dr. Paddy Daly, former Clinical Director of the Migraine Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital ‘Rights and entitlements at work’ Prof. Caoimhín MacMaoláin, School of Law, Trinity College The seminar aims to inform attendees about how migraine can be managed in the workplace, to create a more content and productive workforce. To register contact the migraine helpline on 1850-200-378 or email info@migraine.ie

B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Coping effectively with bereavement is a skill we can all learn. Next residential weekend will be held **20th – 22nd May 2016** in All Hallows, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 For further information please contact 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com. www.beginningexperience.ie



Rosary Beads

Rosary Beads, including Rosary Beads for First Holy Communion are now available from the Parish Office



Swords Parishes Pilgrimage Walk

Jubilee Year of Mercy, Swords Parishes Pilgrimage Walk will take place on Saturday 11th June commencing in St. Colmcille's Church at 2pm. Further details will follow over the coming weeks.