

The lawyer says, "In the end, everything runs down."
 St. Paul says, "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor.2:9). And they're happening right here, right now. (Source: *Sundays with Jesus: James DiGiacomo, SJ*)
Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am Molly Hatch	Sat 6.30pm Tom Gavillet
Tues 10.00am Úna Morley	Sun 8.30am Christine & Francis Loughran John Collins
Wed 10.00 Frank Duff	
Thurs 10.00 Niall Condron	
Fri 10.00am Sarah Jane Reddington Tony Reddington	Sun 6.30pm Gerry Murphy Michael Casey (MM)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am
 Weekday Masses at 9:20AM on Monday and Tuesday each week resume from tomorrow here in Drynam..

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Christy Dignam Milton Terrace



In his presence

Lord, I place myself in your presence.
 After the strain and turmoil of the day
 I rest quietly here, as a little boat,
 which has been tossed by the waves and buffeted by
 the wind,
 rests secure in a sheltered harbor.
 Here my projects lose their power over me.
 A healing process begins.
 My fragmented self is reassembles,
 and I am made whole again.
 In your presence, I experience my true worth,
 which consists not in doing but in being.
 I surrender myself into your hands. I am at peace. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)



Catholic Young Adults Conference

"Mary Inflames the Embers – Are you Ready?" Join the Legion of Mary Project for the annual Catholic Young Adults Conference (ages 18-40) in All Hallows College, Gracepark Rd, Drumcondra, Dublin 9 from the 20th – 21st August. Cost – 2 Days Residential €70 & Non-residential: €40. For further information contact Liam – 086 8888918 or Declan 085 8032848 www.facebook.com/deus.patria

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



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mary has chosen the better part

"See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul"

Newsletter Sunday 17th July 2016

Mary spends time listening to Jesus because he opens up a whole world to her. Paul calls this "the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past...but now... manifested to his holy ones."



Many people are totally closed off from this mystery; it is a world they find totally unreal. A friend of mine once told me about a challenging conversation he had with a lawyer. The man told him, "You clergymen try to convince people that they are more than mere animals. You try to make them believe that there is some transcendent purpose to life, that there is some kind of cosmic meaning that they can be part of. The way I see it, if we have any purpose on this earth, it is just to keep things going. We can stir the pot while we are here and try to keep things interesting. Beyond that, everything runs down: your body runs down; your faith runs down. We can only try to make it interesting."

The lawyer, of course, is an atheist. He says, in effect, that what you see is what you get, and nothing more. We disagree. By our very presence here at this Mass, we are saying that he is wrong. There is a whole dimension of reality that escapes him. It can be seen only with the eyes of faith. We have been let in on a secret: that we are not alone in an uncaring universe that's going nowhere. We are loved and cared for by a God, who, through Jesus Christ, has shared our lot. By his cross and resurrection he has won for us a life stronger than death. Yes, things run down, but that's not the last word. God has a plan for us, a destiny. He invites us on a journey to a fuller life.

To outsiders, we are just a group of people engaged in ritual behaviour here at Mass. But much more is going on. We are in touch with the world of the spirit. We are engaged in a conversation with the living God who is not a million miles away but right here among us, as close as Jesus was to Mary. We are making present the redemptive death and resurrection of God's own son. We are eating the bread of life – Jesus himself – as food for our journey.

We have much reason to be grateful, to rejoice, to hope. Do we have anything to do? Yes. We can share the secret with those who have not heard the good news or, like the lawyer, find it hard to believe. How can we do that?

- Just by being here, in church, we are making a statement;
- By trying to live lives marked by justice and compassion and care;
- By refusing to settle for a life of conspicuous consumption;
- By valuing people more than things.

These are signs that this liturgy is no mere exercise in empty religious formalism, but that we are truly in touch with the divine.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

Congratulations

On behalf of myself and the Parish I'd like to congratulate River Valley native Fr. Damian Polly OP who celebrated his first Mass in St. Finian's River Valley last Sunday. I wish him all the best and many graces and blessings in his ministry.

8.00 a.m. Morning Mass

For the next fortnight there is no 8.00am Mass, Monday to Friday. It will resume on Tuesday 2nd August. Fr. Pat will be by himself for the next two weeks – So MIND HIM! I and we are so lucky to have him and he will say the 10.00am Mass every morning for the next fortnight as well as three weekend Masses.

Confessions

Whilst the Saturday Morning 10.00am Mass is cancelled for the summer, there are Confessions available on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

Brackenstown – there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 10.00am Mass

River Valley - there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 11.00am Mass



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Religious communities make up a small percentage of the Christian population but nevertheless play a dynamic and central role in the spreading of the Kingdom of God. To belong to a religious society is a call to witness with one's life to what one believes in. The most effective form of witness is the testimony of a person's life.

Reflection - Religious life has been called a radical response to the Jesus who appears on the pages of the gospels. Radical means 'to the very roots'. Religious congregations are made up of people who have been attracted by the gospel message and who freely opt to bring that message to the women and men of their own day. This is the task of the Church and this is why religious communities are at the heart of the Church. It is a call that whoever can would do well to answer. *(Source: St. Paul's Missal.)*

Living the Paschal Mystery

How do we keep Jesus at the centre of our lives when we are always so busy? One way is to practice seeing Jesus in every person we meet. Another way is to remember that all the good we have and do ultimately comes from God who is the source of all good. Yet another way is to stop and think about why we are doing things: simply to accomplish a task, or to build a stronger relationship with others? *(Source: Living Liturgy)*

The Bible's Most Important People

Hosea – A minor prophet whom God commanded to marry a prostitute, Gomer. She took a lover and ran from Hosea. God told Hosea to go to her and win her back. The prophet's tumultuous family life paralleled the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel, who had abandoned their covenant with God.

Year of Mercy – the tenderness and mercy of God

The twenty first paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericordiae Vultus' continues - If God limited himself to only justice, he would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction. This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness. Yet this does not mean that justice should be devalued or rendered superfluous. On the contrary: anyone who makes a mistake must pay the price. However, this is just the beginning of conversion, not its end, because one begins to feel the tenderness and mercy of God. God does not deny justice. He rather envelopes it and surpasses it with an even greater event in which we experience love as the foundation of true justice. We must pay close attention to what Saint Paul says if we want to avoid making the same mistake for which he reproaches the Jews of his time: "For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified" (Rom 10:3-4). God's justice is his mercy given to everyone as a grace that flows from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thus the Cross of Christ is God's judgement on all of us and on the whole world, because through it he offers us the certitude of love and new life.

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 13th August. Coach departs at 8.00am from The Star. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel Strokestown. Cost - (coach only) €15. Please contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 8402268

Irish Cancer Society's Volunteer Driver Service is in need of volunteer drivers to drive local patients to and from their chemotherapy treatments in our partner Dublin hospitals (St. James's; The Mater; Tallaght & St. Vincent's). Driver expenses are paid. Telephone Rebecca on 01 2316 642 or Email transport@irishcancer.ie

Saints this coming week

St. Mary Magdalene – Friday 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 – Saturday 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.