

Passing on the Christian understanding of marriage and families is another difficult challenge for families.

Family is central to the lives of all and also to the care and ministry of the Church. As a Church in this diocese, we have to rediscover the irreplaceable role of families in our understanding of ministry. Parents have inalienable rights regarding the education of their children. As Church communities we need to find structures of dialogue with parents on this issue.

There is no ideal family but there is an ideal of family that springs from the teaching of Jesus. We have great families and we have families that fail. Here today we gather together. We do not put any of us under the microscope of where we are in our search for perfection. We are all sinners on a constant path of conversion. We learn to work together and support each other, to pray for each other". *Fr Michael Carey*

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention	Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer
Mon 10.00am Christina & Sean Donohue & Family	
Tues 8.00am Gerry Foley	
Tues 10.00am Joe Nulty	Sat 6.30pm Paddy Woods
Wed 8.00am Gerry Foley	
Wed 10.00am Peter Gannon	Sun 8.30am Fred & Mary O'Farrell
Thurs 8.00am Gerry Foley	Sun 11.00am James & Mary Dillon
Thurs 10.00am NO MASS	Cheslave Antarie (MM)
Fri 8.00am John Heaslip	Sun 6.30pm Nuala Ryan & Jane & John
Fri 10.00am Oliver Morton	& Cait Ryan

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

The next Drynam Pastoral Team Meeting has been rearranged for Tuesday 1st May at 8:00pm

A prayer initiative for the protection of the 8th amendment has been organised. This 40 hour adoration and prayer vigil will be hosted by St Finian's, Rivervalley. the prayer vigil will be held on the 3rd weekend of each month for all of North Dublin. Please support - Everyone welcome. Beginning at 7.00am on Friday to conclude at 11pm on the following day - Saturday. Dates: **Friday 20th April** to Saturday 21st April, **Friday 25th May** to Saturday 26th May For further information contact Ann Murtagh at 087 0544882

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are continuing our parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes.

Conversation 3:

Tuesday 24th April in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday 24th April in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre on from 7.30pm - 9:00pm

Thursday 26th April in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

Third Sunday of Easter

The sacraments - the signs of the presence in the Church of the redeeming power of Jesus Christ. (Part 2)

*"Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of
his name"*

Newsletter Sunday 15th April 2018

Continuing on from last week the conclusion of the Archbishop's Chrism Homily in which he focusses on the upcoming World Meeting of Families.

"This year we will celebrate the World Meeting of Families with the presence of Pope Francis. Why a World Meeting for Families? Let me share some reflections with you. The World Meeting is not just a five-day event but a moment in which we focus of the mission of families within the Church and society. In families, life and faith and love are celebrated and lived in an integrated way.

Spouses witness to Jesus through their love for each other. The sexual love of spouses mirrors in its own way the tenderness of God's love. The love of spouses is a call to fidelity in love, reflecting the fidelity of God to his people. Families welcome new life and embrace the children God may give them with the warmth of God's love expressed in a human fashion.

Family life is not easy. Families are under enormous challenge. There is a sense in which the struggle of families is central to understanding many of the social challenges of life today: families struggle financially; they grapple with uncertainty about the values of society; refugees long to be reunited with their families or are struggling to keep their families together. Many more families are homeless, but in the face of indignity they still keep heroically alive their love as spouses and their love or their children.

I am really saddened by the fact that in the Capuchin Day Centre for the homeless they have had to open a special section where homeless families can share a meal together. These are parents and their children without a home who are, thank God, offered the possibility of being together to share - what we all wish to do - a family meal.

The failures of the Church in the past and the present very often struck at the lives of families. I have heard the cry of parents who experienced the pain of one or other family member having been abused and many were not listened to. Women who found themselves as single parents were often taken away from their children and at times children were left without knowing that they belonged to a family and had brothers and sisters. Where the church failed families and children then the Church failed Jesus himself.

Families vary. It is hard today to socially define what we call "the traditional family". Every family has its own personal story and its own personal history. They are all different. Children are brought up in different settings, by married couples, by grandparents, by single parents, by non-married couples, by separated couples, by gay and lesbian couples. This is a statement of fact not of ideology. The Church must work to help that all these children are loved and are introduced to an appreciation of the Gospel of love.

The Church must of course also find new and robust ways to attract future generations to an integral understanding of the beauty of Christ's unchanging teaching on marital love and fidelity.



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.*



Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-21st April, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 3

Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

The Ceremony of Light for St. Colmcille's GNS will be held this Tuesday 17th April at 1.30pm. This Ceremony is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they, their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and that their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves

Sacrament of Confirmation - BNS

Next Thursday 19th April, the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. On behalf of the Parish I am delighted to welcome Bishop Ray Field who will administer the Sacrament. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass (and the 12.15pm Mass in Drynam) 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

Resting Under the Tree

An evening of reflection and music on 'The Hospitality of Abraham' (Gen. 18:1-14) and Rublev's Icon of the Trinity, in the Monastery of St. Alphonsus, St. Alphonsus Rd, Drumcondra on **Monday 16th April at 8.00pm**

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet this Monday 16th April at 8.00pm in the Parochial House.

Red Hurley – You raise me up

Red Hurley and Whitehall Parish Choir – Proceeds in aid of new church organ. Tickets €20. Venue – Church of the Holy Child, Whitehall on Friday 27th April at 8pm. For Tickets call 01-8375274

DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2018

The three Parishes in Swords have arranged buses to Knock for the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. The buses will leave at 7:30am on Saturday 21st April. Cost of the bus is €20 and Children under 16 €10 Please bring a Packed Lunch – Tea & Coffee available in St. John's Centre, Knock. Bus will stop for 15 minutes on the way down and back. **To book please contact Colette at the Parish Office**



Towards the Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

Choose Life 2018 is a weekly newsletter www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018. The eleventh edition is on that website now. There are some copies on the table at the back of the Church.

Eilish's Story (*a nurse from Cork*) "The possibility of unrestricted abortion access up to 12 weeks is a major concern for me and many other nurses on the wards. We are shocked, and nervous, that abortion could be available in Ireland up to full term of pregnancy in some instances. "Science shows us the humanity of the unborn child. A unique human life begins at conception. Our gender, fingerprints, freckles, eye colour and blood type are determined at that moment. "The heartbeat is detectable just 21 days after conception. At five weeks, a baby's eyes, ears and nose are forming. The brain is dividing into distinct segments and the buds that will become the legs and arms are growing. At seven weeks the baby moves for the first time. Fingers, toes and eyelids are almost completely formed. By week 12, all vital organs are formed and the baby can clearly be seen kicking and leaping about on 12-week ultrasound scans. "On April 27, it will be 51 years since the 1967 UK Abortion Act was introduced. Today, in England and Wales 185,000 abortions happen every year, with one in five pregnancies now ending in abortion. If the Eighth Amendment is repealed, Ireland will go from a country that cherishes and protects the lives of mothers and babies equally in pregnancy, to a country where unborn babies have no legal protection at all. "At present doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals work to protect the lives and health of their two patients, mother and baby. If the Eighth Amendment is repealed it will have an impact on both the general public and those of us working in the health sector."

Early Christian Swords Exhibition

An exhibition titled "Early Christian Swords" will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre, Brackenstown Road, Swords from Saturday 14th to Saturday 27th April. The Swords area is steeped in history and it was an important centre for Christianity in the early days of the Irish Church. The exhibition will feature displays on St Colmcille's Monastery, Glasmore Abbey/The Nunnery, and the local Holy Wells of St Colmcille, St Cronan and St Werburgh. The exhibition will be open to all and there will be no entrance charge.

Share Sunday

Thanks to Share, we are able to provide support services to our parish communities in child safeguarding, education and schools, repairs to buildings, prudent financial management, human resources and training people to work in evangelisation and catechesis