

things, times and schedule, language and structure can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for self-preservation".

That quote brings me back to the realities of a changing Church like that in Ireland. In the diocese of Dublin we have two priests under the age of forty and forty four between the age of seventy and seventy five. And yet there can be more time lost, to use the Pope's words, over "times and schedules", over the loss of a ten o'clock Mass, than over the real challenges of faith that we encounter.

In a changing Church we can no longer continue to do things as we used to. That applies as Pope Francis said to timetables and schedules, but it really challenges us to take a completely new look at what evangelising means.

**Our young people have lost familiarity with the language of faith, despite years of Catholic education.** It is no longer just that we have not been able to win the hearts of young people for the Church as an institution; we are no longer winning their hearts of Jesus Christ. In the first instance this may not be just a failure in our preaching. It is also a failure in listening. There is a sense in which we are afraid to look too closely at what "the Spirit is saying to the Churches", for fear that the Spirit may be asking for more radical change than we wish.

If we are called to bring the message of Jesus to those on the margins of society, then have to listen to the marginalised: to the poor and the rejected, but also to the sinners and the confused. We have to have the sensitivity to hear what the Spirit is saying when the Spirit speaks from unlikely sources... **to be concluded next week** *Fr. Michael Carey Adm*

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

**Mon** 8.00am People of the Parish

**Mon** 10.00am Stephen Cleary

**Tues** 8.00am Special Intention

**Tues** 10.00am Joe & Peggy Savage

**Wed** 8.00am Special Intention

**Wed** 10.00am Harry Gibson

**Thurs** 8.00 am Special Intention

**Thurs** 10.00am Special intention

**Fri** 8.00 In Thanksgiving

**Fri** 10.00am Patricia Hennelly

**Sat** 10.00 am Andy Brogan

**Sat 6.30 pm** Niamh Morris

**Sun 8.30am** Esther Fitzsimons

**Sun 10.30am** Dec members of Sutton & Sheehan Family

**Sun** 11.30 am

**Sun 7.30 pm** Paddy Kane

**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**

Today we have the return of Teas after Mass after the Summer break. The Pastoral Team had its first meeting of the new term on Monday and we are making plans for the coming year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let us know.



**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 Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords - **Next Meeting 8th September**. 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

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)



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Living the Joy of the Gospel (Part 3)**

*"You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love"*



**Newsletter Sunday 7th September 2014**

*Speaking about Pope Francis and his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin addressed a Catholic Leadership Forum of priests, school principals and archdiocesan agency leaders gathered at the Catholic Leadership Centre, Melbourne on 14 July 2014... continued from last week*

The Good Shepherd is a complex image. It is not about the bleached white sheep of the holy pictures. Sheep are dirty, they are oily, they are muddied and disorganised in their movements.

Our evangelisation must reach out not just to the like-minded but to those whose original faith has become murky and those whose life's-journey brings them to live within the complexities of modern living where it is so easy to lose direction.

The Good Shepherd is also an unorthodox shepherd. He is the one who is ready to leave the ninety nine to reach out and to find the one who is lost. Again let me quote Pope Francis: "Rather than being a Church which opens and receives, we have to try to be a church which goes out beyond itself towards the men and women who do not come to Church, who no longer know the church, those who have left the Church and those who have become indifferent".

Most of us feel a little uncomfortable about the idea of really leaving the ninety nine to find the one who is lost. It sounds nice, but is it reasonable to apply as a general principle? We fear that we will lose the ninety nine through our inattention. We may even be concerned that the ninety nine might be happier if we forgot the lost one, that the Church would be better off or at least a little tidier without some of those lost. The lost sheep may be the ones who make us feel uncomfortable.....

The danger for a Church which in many ways is under attack is to close ranks rather than to accept that it is time to go out to those who are anguished and angry or scandalised with the Church and show that the Church is a community which cares for them and for all those on the frontiers of abandonment and poverty and those who are searching for meaning in their lives and who have not received the message of Jesus because the Church was too focused on itself rather than on the marginalised and wounded.

The Church must be a Church which reaches out and Pope Francis speaks of this repeatedly and is not afraid to speak also about the small print -the detail -of how this can be achieved: "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, its way of doing

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – “ Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.”*



### 10.00am Sunday Mass

I am delighted to announce that the 10.00am Sunday Morning Mass resumes next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

### Welcome Back!

I am delighted to welcome back the Parish Choir and the Parish Folk Group. It is wonderful to have the return of our very important and indeed **vital** Music Ministry after the summer holidays. Please support them with your prayers and indeed your voices!

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Facing another about hurts is one of the most difficult “dyings” we undertake – a dying that requires us to risk relationships, let go of self-righteousness, perhaps face angry reaction. From the other side, admitting that we have hurt another – even something so simple as apologising to another for an inadvertent hurt – takes great humility and honesty. Neither facing another nor facing ourselves about sinfulness is easy!

The good news and strength to be reconcilers come from Jesus’ promise that he is in the midst of two or three gathered in his name. The challenge of this gospel is to grow in the consciousness that we and others are the presence of the risen Christ for one another, and then to act accordingly. *(Source: Living Liturgy)*

### Choir

In the newsletter this week is a very important notice from Anne McDonagh which appeared last at the beginning of Summer. She is looking for new choir members – 1st and foremost new members for the choir would come from the regulars to this 11.30am Mass. As Anne states if no new members come forward the choir may come to an end. Please give it thoughtful and prayerful consideration. The choir recommences this Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE** If the only prayer you said in your life was “I thank you”, that would be enough.... Meister Eckhart (ca.1260-1328, Dominican mystic

### Church Choir

The Church Choir is asking for your help. They need new members from September next. Membership of the choir is not very onerous; it involves singing at Mass at 11.30am on Sundays and singing at the Christmas and Easter celebrations. Practice is normally held for half an hour before Mass. You don't have to have a great voice to join the choir. As long as you can hold a tune you would be very welcome. *Remember that to sing is to pray twice.* The current members are coming to retirement stage so **the choir will come to an end** if we do not have new members. So please give it some thought and if you can come along at 11.00 to talk to myself **today** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September to give it a try until Christmas for the Carol Service.

*Anne McDonagh – Choir Director*



## Feasts this Week

**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary– Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September.** Nothing is known for sure about the details of the Blessed Virgin’s birth. Even her parents, traditionally known as St. Joachim and St. Anne, are not mentioned in Sacred Scripture. Today’s feast originated in the East, probably during the sixth century, and was later introduced into the West. A French legend tells of a man hearing angels singing on the night of 8<sup>th</sup> September and being told that the Virgin Mary had been born on that night. Her earthly birth is celebrated (like that of St. John the Baptist) because it announced to the world the coming of Jesus, the beginning of the New Covenant.

**St. Ciaran, Abbot – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September,** (c.512-c545), one of the ‘Twelve Apostles of Ireland,’ was born in Connaught and studied under St, Finnian at Clonard. He eventually founded the great monastery of Clonmacnoise on the Shannon, which became an important centre of learning. However, after serving as Abbot for only seven months he died.

**St. John Chrysostom, bishop and doctor of the Church – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September,** 347-407, one of the four great Greek Doctors, the ‘Golden-mouthed’ preacher, was Archbishop of Constantinople. He incurred much opposition and died in exile. Patron saint of preachers.

## Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Gospel reading today has some harsh dimensions and most likely it reflects not the teaching of Jesus directly but the practices in the Church for which Matthew was writing. As often in Matthew, however, there is a surprise. People who refuse to acknowledge their failures are to be treated as pagans and tax collectors! But just how are pagans and tax collectors treated by Jesus and in the Gospel of Matthew? Remember the call of Matthew (Mt 9:9)! Recall the story of the Canaanite woman (Mt 15:21-28)! They are welcomed and forgiven! Any permanent exclusion is to be resisted on the example and teaching of Jesus himself.

**Prayer** - Lord, we believe your word to us that where two or three are gathered in your name you are in our midst. Help us to recognise you in all our brothers and sisters, whatever their failures or sins. Help us to recognise you in ourselves, whatever our faults.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Ella Monks**  
**Joseph Cooney**  
**Grace Burke**  
**Denis O’Sullivan**

**Clohran**  
**Rathbeale Crescent**  
**Brides Glenn Park**  
**St Columba’s Rise**

## Liturgical Bits and Bites

**Bible Translations** - Readings from the Bible are used at Mass. We read from a book called the Lectionary. It is not the Bible, but all the readings in it are taken from the Bible. The translation is approved by the Catholic Bishops of a country and they choose which translation will work best for their people and use that for their Lectionary.

**St. Vincent de Paul** The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **next** weekend at all Masses

New Mass times for **St Finian’s Church River Valley** are: Vigil 7.30pm **Saturday**, 10am **Sunday**, 11.30am **Sunday**