

We too like the people of Isaiah's time, long for the warmth and light of God's presence to bring to life whatever good has died within us. Our lighting of the advent wreath over the next four weeks gives expression to that longing within us. (*partly sourced from Living Liturgy*)

**Fr. Michael Carey Adm**

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Mon</b> 8.00am Mass for Priests     | <b>Sat</b> 10.00am Dec members of the Agnew Family       |
| <b>Mon</b> 10.00am Marie Farrell       |  |
| <b>Tues</b> 8.00am Special Intention   | <b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Gabrielle Flynn                        |
| <b>Tues</b> 10.00 am Patricia Hennelly | Albert Kidney (MM)                                       |
| <b>Wed</b> 8.00am Bridget Richardson   | <b>Sun</b> 8.30am Liam Spencer, Esther & William Spencer |
| <b>Wed</b> 10.00am Patrick Barry       | <b>Sun</b> 10.00 am John & Anna O'Neill                  |
| <b>Thurs</b> 8.00am John Kelly         | <b>Sun</b> 11.30am Margaret Prendergast                  |
| <b>Thurs</b> 10.00 am Lucy Melia       | <b>Sun</b> 7.30 pm Denny & Annie Stafford & dec          |
| <b>Fri</b> 8.00am John Doyle           | members of the Stafford Family                           |
| <b>Fri</b> 10.00am Philip Markey       |  |

**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**



We are making progress forming a Baptismal Team, but still need volunteers willing to impart an understanding of the meaning and importance of Baptism to parents. Training will be provided. Please ask Fr. Peter or a member of the Pastoral Team for more information.

**Annual Carol Service and Readings**



The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm**, with the Parish Choir. We would be grateful if parishioners could bring along some mince pies for the tea's/coffee's which will be available after the service.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place next weekend on w/end of **December 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>**. It will be the second collection replacing Share. Members of the local Conference will speak at all Masses and will address the issue of the number of families in our Parish who are finding themselves on the 'breadline'. The Conference depends on your generosity to meet requests for assistance for these families. We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year. Many children of the Parish like to help by donating toys at Masses on the Sunday of our Appeal. This is greatly appreciated. There will be boxes in the Sanctuary. Please place unwrapped, **NEW TOYS** in these boxes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Bethany Bereavement Group** will meet in the parochial House on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. All Fingal residents welcome

\*\*\*\*\*

**St. Columba's Parish** are holding s Coffee Morning and Cake Sale on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec from 11.00am to 2.00pm** in the Parish Hall, opposite St. Columba's Church. All proceeds in aid of Parish Funds – All welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim** w Niedziele 14 Grudzien, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

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)  
 Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)  
 Website: [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**The Way of the Lord**

*“Grace and peace to you from him who is, who was, and who is to come” (Rev.1:4)*



**Newsletter Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2104**

Advent is a season that looks back and looks forward at the same time. We look back to the birth of Jesus in simplicity over 2000 years ago. We also look forward with hope and love to welcoming Jesus again at the end of

time when he comes in tenderness and love to meet us face to face

Advent is a season of **waiting, of patience** and of **attentiveness**. We wait in a spirit of calm and patience with our eyes wide open in gentle attentiveness for the gifts that Jesus has prepared for us to unfold

Advent is a season which invites us to touch into our deeper longings, the yearning for life, light, love, truth and joy. These yearnings are ultimately a longing for God. St Augustine – our hearts are restless until they rest in God



We begin advent in the conviction that God is constantly coming towards us as one who can change us for the better. In this second week of Advent we are introduced to John the Baptist, who is also known as the Advent Saint. He calls on us to ‘prepare the way of the Lord’. In the time of John the Baptist, wherever a lord/local king announced a visit to a town or region, legions of workers would prepare the way by clearing rocks from the road, removing brush and debris, and filling in ruts so that the lord's travel would be expeditious, safe and comfortable. The “way of the Lord” of which the gospel speaks requires even more difficult and challenging work.

How do we prepare “the way of the Lord”? We remove the rocks of obstinacy, smooth the paths of resistance, and make straight the wrong of sin. We are empowered to do this difficult and challenging work because we have been baptised in the Spirit of Jesus who enables us to live as he did.

Living in the Spirit enables us to overcome the boulders that get in the way of leading holy lives and the missteps that turn us from the path of peace and righteousness. Faithful living in the Spirit is evident in ordinary and everyday ways, for example, by caring for our spouses and loved ones, by children being diligent about their school learning, by the elderly contributing their wisdom to the well-being of the community. As St. Peter says in today's second reading, “So then, my friends, while you are waiting, *do your best (italics mine)* to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace” (2 Pet 3:14).

The lack of God in our lives can only be filled by God. “Console my people, console them” says our God. We know that we have not been living as God has intended us to live; much of what was good in us has withered. Yet, we also know that God remains faithful to us and can renew us. God can make something new out of the difficulties that we create in our lives – “The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mk.1.1)

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – “Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God”*

### Advent – How spelling it helps!

**A is for ALERT** - Be ready to welcome God at any time. **D is for DO** - Do something for someone else every day to show you care. **V is for VIOLET** - The colour that shows we await our King. **E is for EFFORT** - Give it your best to prepare for the Lord. **N is for NICE** - Try to be nice to those around you, remembering that God lives within them too. **T is for TIME** - Jesus said, ‘You do not know the day nor the hour your Lord will come.’ So let’s try to make the most of the time we have.



### Confirmation Classes

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about a guilt-trip. Rather, it is about unburdening. The Lord invites us to receive from him ‘rest for our souls’ (Mt 11:29) so that he may set us free (Lk 4:18) that we may continue to seek to live ‘life to the full’ (Jn 10:10). Jesus is encountered in and through the Sacrament. The Advent/Christmas Reconciliation service takes place in St. Colmcille’s on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm

### Pavilions Crib

I thank the Management of the Pavilions Shopping Centre for yet again erecting such a beautiful Crib. If you get an opportunity it would be nice if you could say a ‘thank you’ to the staff at the information desk. I have sent a letter of appreciation and thanks to the Management of the Pavilions Centre

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE:** A religion without mystery is necessarily a religion without God – Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667, English spiritual writer)

### Ministers of the Word-Swords

All Ministers of the Word, of St. Colmcille’s Swords are invited to Night Prayer and Light refreshments in the **Parochial House, Seatown Rd** on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**. I’d be delighted if you could make it.

### Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office of both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a ‘lovely stocking filler’ for your nearest and dearest.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Legion of Mary** are looking for new members. Meetings take place in the Parochial House on Monday at 7pm. Come along, you will be most welcome.



## Advent Wreath-2nd CANDLE – (purple)

### THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or CANDLE OF PEACE

*We work for peace-because Jesus is the ‘Prince of Peace’ and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.*

*Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we will light the candle of Peace Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide.*

*We ask that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will yr sharing your peace with each other.*

*We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen*

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God’s people awaited the Messiah. The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ ‘Light of the World’.



## JESSE TREE-week 2

This tree is named after David, the great king of Israel. The symbols represent the promises God made through the Old Testament concerning the birth of his only Son. Some of the most important promise were made to Jesses and his son David. They were promised that God’s only Son would be born in their family. Today is the second Sunday in Advent and we now add three more symbols to the Jesse tree in both our churches

### **Star of David**

Jesus was born into the house of David, the great king of Israel. This symbol also reminds us of the star the magi followed to find the baby Jesus

### **Jacobs Ladder**

Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Jesus opened the gates of heaven kingdom for all of us

### **David’s Crown**

David was King of Israel for many years, and it was promised that the Messiah would come from the house of David. Because Joseph became Mary’s husband. Jesus was born into the house of David

## Second Sunday of Advent

As Christmas approaches, we could ask ourselves: how can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts: conversion of heart and life. The deeper meaning of metanoia is a change of vision, a radically new outlook, in the light of the Gospel. God is our compassionate Father, our Abba, who desires nothing less than our hearts, our whole selves. We are accepted and loved by him, while we are still sinners (Rm 5:8). Receiving his forgiving-love means a revolution in values, beliefs and direction in life.

**Prayer** - Loving God, as we your children prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour, help us to prepare our hearts, too. May the coming birth of the Son of David encourage us to true repentance and genuine conversion of heart