

### World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Planning for this great national and international celebration of faith is well underway. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a second national collection will be held on the weekend of **1st and 2nd April 2017**. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.



### Mass intentions for Next Week

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Donors intention	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Nancy Madden	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Alan & John Leech
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Peggy Ferris	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am St Joseph in Honour & Thanksgiving	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Catherine O’Gorman Sheila Cronin 1st An
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Margaret Graham	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Vera Barker
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Mary Brophy	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Mary O’Connor
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Christina Kealy	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Bridget Barry	
<b>Fri</b> 8.30am Eugene Walsh & Martin & James Hickey	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm Anthony Casciani
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Our lady in Honour & Thanksgiving	

### Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am**  
We will have the ‘Do this in memory’ program for Holywell ETNS children at the 12:00 Mass today in Drynam. There will be a Fundraising Committee meeting on Tuesday at 8:00PM.

### Third Sunday of Lent

Today we are greatly helped by the wonderful Gospel of the Woman at the Well. On the third attempt, Jesus finally gets through to her but after that there is no stopping her. She represents us: what do I thirst for? What is the most important thing in my life? Where do I now find God? By relentless challenge and resolute honesty, we too can be led to that encounter with Jesus, which changes everything, “giving life a new horizon and a decisive direction”. May we come to believe because we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.

**Prayer** - In the midst of the ordinary things, loving God, you call us to the deeper realities: your thirst for us and our thirst for you. Never let us be satisfied, until we come to the springs of living water, welling up for eternal life. (Source: *St. Paul’s Missal*)

### Saints this coming week

**St. Joseph - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March**, not a single word of his is recorded in Sacred Scripture and yet St. Joseph is one of the greatest and most popular saints, largely because of his humility and his closeness to Our Lord. He died before the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry and, since he probably died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, is venerated as the patron of a good death.

**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**

3rd Sunday of Lent

### **The Woman at the Well**

*“I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you from all your impurities”*

Newsletter Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017



John, more than any other gospel, emphasises the personal encounters that people had with Jesus. A real encounter with Jesus meant that life would not be the same again. At the well, Jesus’ request for water sparks a conversation that is soon going in several directions at once. Jesus leads the woman on a wonderful journey towards a deeper, more human life. He meets the woman where she is at, yet he challenges her deeply so that she can grow into the person that she is capable of being. This woman experiences conversion and growth at this well, not just a physical quenching of thirst, but a spiritual one. The water that Jesus gives brings a deep, inner change of heart that material things cannot provide: ‘Give me this water so that I may not be thirsty.’ (Jn 4:15)

Local communities in Honduras today are thirsting for justice. Families are being forced to move because of poor land quality, exploitation by land owners and rising sea levels. They are unable to produce crops because of the struggle to find arable lands. Rising sea levels mean that the salt levels are having detrimental effects on plant growth and yield. This is a direct result of climate change.

Like the woman at the well, we too are called to a profound interior conversion. Even the most committed and prayerful Christians can be passive and cynical when it comes to concerns for creation. We read in *Laudato Si* that ‘what [we] all need is an “ecological conversion”, whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience’ (*Laudato Si*, 217). We see the effect of the woman’s encounter with Jesus; she is brought on a journey, a deep reflection on her lifestyle that results in an action: she goes to alert others.

Today we can ask ourselves this question: is the effect of my faith, my encounter with Jesus, evident in my life? It is easy to join the fight for climate justice by making small changes in our lifestyles which reduce our carbon footprints. One simple example: people in Ireland spend millions every year on bottled water under the impression it is better for us; a theory backed by the multi-billion bottled water industry. This costs the environment dearly. The average person will get through 168 single-use bottles of water in a year and we send up to 70 per cent to landfill. Moving bottles of water around the globe adds about 100g CO2 per bottle. One simple change we can make is to switch from bottled water to tap water. Let us be united in our endeavors to relieve the thirsts of the world. (Source: *Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017*).

**Fr. Michael Carey**

### ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – the water I shall give will become a spring welling up to eternal life*

#### Bible Read-athon

Last October to celebrate the Year of Mercy the Parish held a 'bible read-athon'. It was a successful initiative. As a Lenten initiative the Parish Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Group has decided to hold a read-athon on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. I hope this idea/initiative is something that interests you. It is very simple and yet can be very rewarding for anyone who participates. To **emphasise**, it is not about being a good reader or have many 'look on' as you read. There is no need for preparation. You just turn up and carry on reading from where the reader before you finished.

Please do consider and put your name down. The day will be divided into 10 minute slots. **What is a 'Bible Readathon?'** – it is quite simply the reading of the Bible our loud in Church. A large print bible will be used. The part to be read is the Gospels of St. Mark. If/when the Gospel is read then we just go back and start again. Why would you take part? Quite simply to spend a few minutes reading out loud the Bible. There is no need for preparation. You just turn up and carry on reading from where the reader before you finished.

#### Trocaire

Thank you to Grainne Dunne and Eilis Travers from Trocaire who spoke at the Masses in Swords last week end. There are Trocaire boxes at the back of the Church and can be returned to Parish at the end of Lent and Trocaire will collect.

#### DO THIS IN MEMORY

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass 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.



#### Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

#### Crosscare Youth Services Collection

The annual collection for Crosscare youth Services -Social Support Agency of the Archdiocese of Dublin will be at all Masses this weekend 18th /19th March. It will replace the Share collection.



#### Saints this coming week

**The Annunciation of the Lord – Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>**, It celebrates Mary's 'Yes' to the Angel Gabriel that she be the mother of 'Our Lord'. We are holy because Jesus is holy. We do not earn holiness by doing good deeds, but our good deeds – our care and concern for others - is a concrete expression of our holiness, our relationship with God. We celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in our own lives by our faithful living of the divine Life that was first given us in baptism and continues to grow in us as we, like Mary, say 'yes' to God in all we do.

#### Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3\* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

**Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is available for deposit paid by 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**Extras:** baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)\* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)\* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)\* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18\* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.\* Entrance fees where applicable.

This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111**

MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

#### **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? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. 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 **19th - 21st May 2017** in **Emmaus Retreat Centre, Swords, Co Dublin.** For further information please contact 086 0877379 or email [bedublin@gmail.com](mailto:bedublin@gmail.com). [www.beginningexperience.ie](http://www.beginningexperience.ie)



#### **The further thirst**

There is a thirst in every human heart. Each of us is like that lonely Samaritan woman. We are thirsting for something, something that will satisfy all our longings. But often we search in the wrong places. We draw water from many wells: the water of praise to quench our thirst for self-esteem; the water of success to quench our thirst for importance; the water of pleasure to quench our thirst for joy... But we still get thirsty. Only God can give us what we are looking for. He alone can cause a spring to well up inside us. The water from this spring will sustain us in our journey to the promised Land of eternal life. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)