

Two Mothers Remembered

I had two Mothers—two mothers I claim
Two different people, yet with the same name.
Two separate women, diverse by design,
But I loved them both because they were mine.

The first was the Mother who carried me here,
Gave birth and nurtured and launched my career,
She was the one whose features I bear,
Complete with the facial expressions I wear.

She gave her love which follows me yet,
Along with the examples in life she set.
As I got older, she somehow younger grew,
And we'd laugh just as Mothers and daughters do.

But then came the time that her mind clouded so,
And I sensed that the Mother I knew would soon go.
So quickly she changed and turned into the other,
A stranger who dressed in the clothes of my Mother.

Oh, she looked the same, at least at arms length,
But she now was the child and I was her strength.
We'd come full circle, we women three,
My Mother the first, the second and me.

And if my own children should come to a day,
When a new mother comes and the old goes away,
I'd ask of them nothing that I didn't do.
Love both of your Mothers as both loved you. *By Joan Snow Duncanson*

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Carmel Byrne

Mon 10.00am Eddie McKeon

Tues 8.00am Deirdre Keogh

Tues 10.00am Paddy Woods

Wed 8.00am Maura Collins

Wed 10.00 Bernadette McGonagle

Thurs 8.00am Antonio Perozzi

Thurs 10.00am Bartle Savage

Fri 8.00am Deirdre Keogh

Fri 10.00am Maureen Nolan

Sat 10.00am Kathleen & Joseph Coleman

Sat 6.30pm Frank McCarthy

Sun 8.30am John Fitzsimons

Sun 11.00am Thomas & Ita Mongey

Sun 6.30pm Selina Cronin



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

4th Sunday of Lent

Christ, The Light of the World

“Be joyful, all who were in mourning”

Newsletter Sunday 26th March 2017



Some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ (Jn 9:40)

We are familiar with the lines in today's gospel: 'I am the light of the world' and 'I was blind but now I see'. We truly need to open our eyes to the realities of climate injustice and the impact that the lifestyles of western countries are having on the world's poorest people. We have seen some effects of rising sea levels in Ireland and remember the battering the west coast of Ireland received in the storms of recent years. These events will become more frequent. We have the resources to cope, but for many countries like Honduras such extreme weather events are catastrophic.

Honduras is rich in minerals such as gold but foreign mining companies exploit this and give very little back to local communities. Mining methods used by these companies have also contaminated local water supplies, which people have no choice but to drink. These minerals are used in many of our products on this side of the world. We can sometimes be blind to the impact of upgrading to the next best thing.

Having our eyes opened, seeing life in a new way, can lead to us making a new commitment. The man born blind sees more clearly as the story goes on, and he also meets more hostility and opposition from those around him who cannot see. It is not an easy path. The more we hear and read the stories of people in Honduras, the more we too can have our eyes opened. We need to see them, to see their struggle, to see the systems that contribute to this crisis.

Jesus tells the people today, 'As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' We can think of many people who have been lights in the fight for justice. Can we ourselves make the same commitment today? *It is not God's will for some to have everything and others to have nothing.* (Oscar Romero) (Source: *Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017*).
Fr. Michael Carey

Holy Thursday – not too far away!

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is I believe a powerful Liturgy, in particular because of the Lord's Mandate to Peter concerning the washing of feet. I would like to do this as part of the Liturgy. It is a liturgical action – *the feet are already clean!!* I invite you to consider volunteering. Please, do not be afraid or shy! We need about 6 people. Please leave your name in the sacristy. Thank you

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

As you may already have noticed, the Pastoral Team invested recently in a new organ for the church and it is playing beautifully. Thank you to Sean and Renata for organising it.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God

Bible Read-athon

As a Lenten initiative the Parish Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Group has decided to hold a read-athon on **Tuesday 4th 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.

Scoil an Duinnigh

This is an Irish School on the Feltrim Road and is under the patronage of the Archbishop. Last week the 6th class celebrated its Ceremony of Light and on Tuesday next the 28th March at 11.00am it will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Colmcille's, Swords. I wish the school well in its final preparations.

Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass, for their second Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.



Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

A Date for your Diary

The fundraising committee will be running its annual Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on **Thursday 8th June 2017** (note this year it is on **Thursday** and not Friday)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

How we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's Gospel, there are two related stories of men being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9, today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience – no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind and now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

Prayer - Faithful God, you call us to be faithful even in times of trial. Teach us to embrace the challenge of faith today, that we may have the courage to grow and give courage to others by our witness. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd 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 24th 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

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 **next** weekend (1st and 2nd April). Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated.



The Gift of Conversion

Jesus' call to conversion is an essential part of the gospel message: 'The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the gospel' (Mk1:15). Jesus' call to conversion is continual and ongoing. It is not just a human work but a movement of a contrite heart drawn and moved by grace to respond to the merciful love of the Father who loved us first (1Jn 4:10). Lent urges us to a deeper conversion: a turning back to God, a returning to the house of the Father who runs out to meet us (Lk 15:20). This call is for every day, for we can always say: 'We were once lost but now are found, we were blind but now we see.' (source: *Walk with me – Lent 2017. Alive publishing*)

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. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 7th March. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.