

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention	Sat 10.00am Elizabeth Burke
Mon 10.00 Kathleen Gaffney	
Tues 8.00am Jon & Kathleen O'Connor	
Tues 10.00am Sheila & Thomas Maher	Sat 6.30pm Michael & Kathleen O'Loughlin & Dec family members
Wed 8.00am Imelda Hughes	Peg McNally
Wed 10.00am Carmel Morgan	Sun 8.30am Fr Sean O'Neill
Thurs 8.00am Sheila Fitzsimons	Sun 11.00am John & Sadie McCormack
Thurs 10.00am Vera Barker	Margaret O'Reilly
Fri 8.00am Maureen Keeley & dec family members	Sun 6.30pm Christmas Mass Bouquets
Fri 10.00am Maura Clancy	Sun 9.00pm Christmas Mass Bouquets

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

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

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

Please note we are not delivering Christmas Cards with Christmas timetable to houses this year. They are available at the back of the church. If possible please also take one for a neighbour if you think they might like one.

JESSE TREE-week 3

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom' (Is 11.7) The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His Only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. Today is the third Sunday in Advent and we now add three more symbols to the Jesse tree in both our churches.

The hammer of Joseph: Joseph became Mary's husband, and looked after Mary and Jesus. We thank him for the part he played in the life of Jesus

The Sun: Just as the natural sun gives light and life to all upon whom its rays fall so Christ, the Rising Dawn, dispels darkness and brings eternal life and light.

The Lily: The Lily represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. From earliest Christian days she has been called blessed. Her example of motherhood, the training she gave her child, her patience and love, the way she encouraged Jesus, and the manner in which she bore her later grief-all this has influenced all who love her.



The O Antiphons

An antiphon is a sentence from Scripture and its purpose is to highlight one aspect of the Psalm; Reading or indeed the Mass – e.g Opening antiphon; Communion antiphon. The O antiphons during Advent also known as **The great O's** are the Magnificat antiphons used at Evening Prayer of the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They are also used as the alleluia verses on the same days in the Mass.

They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with "O". Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. **They are:** December 17: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*); December 18: O Adonai (*O Lord*); December 19: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*); December 20: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*); December 21: O Oriens (*O Dayspring*); December 22: O Rex Gentium (*O King of the nations*); December 23: O Emmanuel (*O With us is God*);



Third Sunday of Advent

3rd Sunday of Advent

The Joy of Advent

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice"

Newsletter Sunday 17th December 2017



The joy of Advent shines forth with an inspiring message of hope and encouragement urging us to rejoice and be happy because the Lord is near. (Hence the title of this third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday). What is more, it tells us that joy is basic to being Christian and our vacation is to radiate joy. Experience bears it out that rejoicing is not always the hallmark of a Christian. All too frequently, Christianity has been associated with sadness. Many of us are more familiar with the gospel message of carrying the cross than of its abiding characteristic of joy. We tend to think of Jesus as the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, yet as he concluded his ministry and was about to leave, he says: 'These things I have spoken to you that my joy might be in you and your joy be complete.' (Jn. 15:11). While there is hardship and suffering in the life of Jesus there is a joy which is compatible with pain.

We were created for happiness. It is the purpose of our whole being and we spend our lives searching and striving to attain it. Somehow this happiness seems to escape us as we go searching after it in the wrong places. Our greatest mistake is to equate joy with pleasure and to look for it in material things. We can buy pleasure and it will cost us dearly, but all the money in the world cannot purchase happiness. Christian joy is something deeper and richer than the smile and laughter upon a happy face. It comes from an awareness that God is with us and produces a contentment and an inner peace that cannot be taken from us. Friendship with God is the source of Christian joy. No trials can drown this joy since it is born of faith. It is a characteristic of the soul that cannot be easily described but should be evident in the life of the believer.

On the first Christmas when God came down in the person of Jesus, he filled the world with glad tidings of great joy. His life was geared towards God the Father in joy, prayer and thanksgiving. We are so caught up with our daily problems that we fail to reflect the joy of that marvellous truth: 'that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son and that whoever believes in him might not die but might have eternal life' (Jn 3:16). There is no greater proof of love than to give of ourselves to others. Our Christmas joy cannot be complete unless we show generosity to those who have nothing to give to us in return. We cannot reflect the light who is Christ if we live by values that do not even remotely resemble those of the gospel. The happiest are those who are doing most for others. They know from experience that it is in giving that we receive. The day will arrive when they will be greeted with the words: 'Well done good and faithful servant, come and join in your master's happiness.' (Source: Desmond Knowles-Voicing a thought on Sunday)

Fr. Michael Carey

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*



Gifts for Advent - Gift 3 – God's love placed in your heart

This week in Advent we focus on hearts: glad hearts, sad hearts, hard hearts, broken hearts, longing hearts. In the Scriptures much is written about hearts because the heart represents the person's deepest identity. Our hearts reveal who we most truly are because they hold what we most deeply desire. What's in your heart can give many answers to that question, and it's a good question to ponder during this week of Advent. But God has an answer for that question, too. "I will put my law within them, and write it on their hearts", says the Lord. So in addition to whatever else might be in your heart, you can also be sure that the law of the Lord is written in permanent ink on your heart. That law is love.

Jesse Tree

Once again I thank John Walsh who again supplied the lovely Jesse Tree for St. Colmcille's. It is a lovely feature of the Advent Season

Advent Wreath

The beautiful Advent Wreath involved much work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney

Penitential Liturgy

The Advent/Christmas Reconciliation service takes place in **St. Colmcille's on Monday 18th December at 7.30pm**. It will take place in St. Finian's River Valley on Tuesday 19th December at 7.30pm.



Christmas confessions

Confessions in St. Colmcille's will be available on Saturday 23rd December from 10.30am to 12noon

Sunday 24th December

Today is the 4th Sunday of Advent with Masses at 6.30pm (Sat Vigil) and Sun 8.30am and 11.00am and 10.00am in Drynam.

Sunday evening 24th December is Christmas Eve and the Masses are those of the Vigil of the Nativity. The times are 6.30pm and 9.00pm in Swords and 6.30pm in Drynam

Monday 25th December

The Feast of the Nativity – Christmas Day. Masses are Swords: 8.30am; 10.00am and 11.00am. Drynam: 10.00am and 11.00am (Irish)

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You

- **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** would like to thank you for your very generous support for last weekend's collection. €4949.50 was collected

• **Christmas Mass Bouquets**

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for 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.

• **Advent Wreath-week 3**

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'.

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" (Luke 2:7-15)

- **St Columba's Church**: Annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held this coming Sunday (17th Dec) in St Columba's Church, at 4.00pm, with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies afterwards in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

• **World Meeting of families 2018:**

Would you consider becoming a volunteer? You can do so either as an individual or as part of a group? No previous volunteering experience is necessary and we have roles for everyone, from logistics to liturgical, from translations to transport, among others. We need a diverse mix of people with various skills and experiences to ensure the success of WMOF2018 – and we need thousands of you! Whatever your reasons or your focus, we know that your abilities and experience can help us and we would welcome your support in helping us create a successful, historic and joyous event.

Apply to volunteer at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer, Volunteer Services World Meeting of Families 2018 **P:** +353 1 567 6812 **E:** volunteer@worldmeeting2018.ie **W:** www.worldmeeting2018.ie **A:** WMOF2018, Holy Cross Diocesan Centre, Clonliffe Rd., Dublin 3, Ireland