

This explains the unique role played by Mary in the lives of Christians, the family of those reconciled to God through the passion and death of Christ: Mary his mother is our Mother also. Art and other forms of devotion down through the ages have tried to express this truth of Mary as mother. A notable example is the sculpture in St. Peter's in Rome, fashioned by Michelangelo, which represents Mary cradling her dead Son in her arms. (*Source the Mystery of the Cross – Cardinal Basil Hume*)

Fr Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Louise Quigley	
Mon 10.00am Geraldine Harrison	Sat 6.30pm Cora Duffy
Tues 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor	
Tues 10.00am Thomas O'Reilly	
Wed 8.00 Patrick O'Reilly & family	Sun 8.30am Stephen Farrell
Wed 10.00 Tom O'Reilly	Sun 11.00am Nick Bates
Thurs 8.00am Tom O'Reilly	Sun 6.30pm Ellen McGrane
Thurs 10.00am Christy Curran	
Fri 8.00am Eileen Crosbie	
Fri 10.00am Paddy Barker	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am

The architects for the new church have had a positive response from Fingal County Council at a pre-planning meeting. While encouraging us to proceed, we must also take on board their views on the project from a planning perspective. We are working now to incorporate their views as far as possible. There will be a further Fundraising Committee meeting tomorrow at 8pm

A Prayer for Mothers - by Heidi Busse

All loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.
We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes
and tend to our every need;

May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families
and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us;
May they continue to guide in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children
because of war, poverty or conflict;

may they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us
with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers & great grandmothers who are no longer with us but
who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

'Who is Jesus?' is a question which Luke seeks to answer in his gospel and in the Acts of the Apostles. To answer this question he sometimes finds it necessary to correct an inadequate view of Jesus. As in the case of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who are demoralised about the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion. It is by returning to Jerusalem, which is also a journey back to the risen Lord, that they begin to have the question answered.

Reflection - The stranger who meets the two disciples on the road to Emmaus journeys with them, talks with them and eventually shares a meal with them. By his closeness to them he transforms failure into fidelity. The assurance of the presence of Jesus with his community today is the inspiration that can equally transform our failures. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal.*)

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21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Blessed Lady

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long”

Newsletter Sunday 21st August 2016

Believe it or not, there are a number of Church feast's in the Month of August to Our Lady (*The Assumption; Our Lady of Knock and the Queenship of Mary*). I came across a nice reflection by the late Cardinal Hume which I will write for this week's newsletter.

Strong in faith, generous in love, cheerful in hope

Our Lady played a key role in the life of Our Lord which earned her the great title of Mother of God. She plays an important role now in the life of the Church and is increasingly called Mother of the Church, the church that was born on Calvary and received its mission at Pentecost.

She was there on Calvary suffering birth pangs, as it were, as the church was born from the pierced side of Our Blessed Lord. She was present in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came down on the apostles.

She is Mother, always there, always interested, always available – a bit in the background, but constantly there. We are reminded of her presence whenever a feast of hers takes place.

Has it occurred to you to consider that Mary (though it seems odd to put it this way), the most distinguished of all the followers of Christ, was a lay person? Has it occurred to you that she whose heart was pierced by a sword, she who suffered most closely with her Son, was not in fact a martyr? But of all those who followed after, none was stronger in faith, more generous in charity and, I would suggest, more cheerful in hope.

Our Lord went out of his way to praise her faith and her love. How could there be a greater vocation than to bring the Son of God, himself truly God, into the world to be at the same time truly man, and to care for him and help him prepare for his work?

But the true value of a person lies in the way that person listens to God and is prepared to respond by wanting the things God wants. And what is this listening and this mutual wanting but the basis of true love? The future was hidden from Mary. There was much she did not understand. She would suffer, see her husband die and her child leave home. She had to cope with the ordinary worries and anxieties of everyday living and then the real trial: those last days and hours when she stood at the foot of the Cross. But she believed and she loved, so she trusted.

She stood at the foot of the cross and shared the agony of her son. As he was dying, he gave his mother to be St. John's mother. It was just a simple gesture. At that moment we were all being represented by St. John, he was each one of us, so to speak.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

A Date for your Diary

I am delighted to announce that the World Apostolate of Fatima will be holding a Eucharistic Vigil in St. Colmcille's Swords on **Friday 2nd September at 7.30pm**. It starts with Holy Hour at 7.30pm finishing with 9.30pm Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary – all are welcome. See notice board at back of Church for more details



Confessions

Whilst the Saturday Morning 10.00am Mass is cancelled for the summer, there are Confessions available on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

Brackenstown – there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 10.00am Mass

River Valley - there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 11.00am Mass

Visitors

Now that we are in summertime, albeit nearing the end, we get visitors to both of churches, whether holidaymakers or family members visiting home. You are all very welcome and I hope that you have a pleasant and safe holiday/family visit in Swords.

Year of Mercy – the Virgin Mary

The twenty fourth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered the sanctuary of divine mercy because she participated intimately in the mystery of His love.

Chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God, Mary, from the outset, was prepared by the love of God to be the Ark of the Covenant between God and man. She treasured divine mercy in her heart in perfect harmony with her Son Jesus. Her hymn of praise, sung at the threshold of the home of Elizabeth, was dedicated to the mercy of God which extends from “generation to generation” (Lk 1:50). We too were included in those prophetic words of the Virgin Mary. This will be a source of comfort and strength to us as we cross the threshold of the Holy Year to experience the fruits of divine mercy



The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend

Two collectors for each weekend Mass are required. Please give 5 minutes after Mass. If you volunteer for this task please take a basket from the Sacristy before Mass

This is the third of four collections this year. This fund will provide for the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It also provides for all art and décor, banners and flowers etc. There are other expenses throughout the year, such as the printing of booklets, prayers, candles, postage stamps etc. As a Parish we are very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed volunteers; they give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Please give what you can to this fund to help us ensure that they have the best possible support in their ministries. This collection takes place in St. Colmcille's only. The next two dates are - next w/end 27th/28th August and 27th/28th November.

Scripture Study - Brackenstown Parish

Would you like to deepen and better understand your faith? You are invited to join us for our autumn Scripture Study which will commence on Monday 29/08/16 with an introductory talk on the Bible. There are 73 Biblical Bibles, we will be reading 14 of these over the 14 weeks of the study. Classes will be on Mondays 7.30 to 9pm in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre, there is no charge. The course will run until the end of November. If you are interested in taking part please contact the Parish office; Tel. 01 8401188, email brackenstownparish@gmail.com.

The Bible's Most Important People

Jacob – Isaac and Rebekah's son who was born clinging to the head of his twin brother, Esau. Years later, when the exhausted hunter Esau, came home and asked Jacob for his lentil stew, Jacob offered to sell it to him for his birthright. Esau accepted. Later, tricked by Laban, Jacob married both his daughters, Leah and his beloved Rachel. From them and their handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah, Jacob had twelve sons, founders of Israel's twelve tribes. He was later renamed Israel and began to understand God's deliverance.

Vicatores Christi.

Always wanted to volunteer overseas? Looking for a course about global social injustice? Learn more at the Viatores Christi (VC) - Information & Recruitment Session in Dublin on Saturday 27th August at 11am at VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Rd., Phibsboro, Dublin 7 OR Tel. 01 8689986 apply@viatoreschristi.com www.viatoreschristi.com ALL WELCOME!

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK:

To commemorate the veterans of the 1916 Rising buried in St. Colmcille's, Swords Historical Society are hosting a walk around the graveyard on Sunday August 28th at 3 pm

Faith for Life

Join us for our adult faith course suitable for anyone seeking a deeper connection between their faith and their daily lives. This year the course will take place in three venues over 4 weekends: **Kilcullen Pastoral Centre**, Sat 1st/2nd October, 12th/13th November; 14th/15th January and 25th/26th February. **BENILDUS Pastoral Centre**, Kilmacud Rd Upr, Oct 15/16 2016, Nov 26/27 2016, Jan 28/29 2017, Mar 11/12 2017 **BALBRIGGAN Parish Centre**, 14/15 Jan 2017, 25/26 Feb 2017, 1/2 Apr 2017, 20/21 May 2017. The cost is €200. For further information and application forms contact: 01 8373732 evangelisation@dublindiocese.ie