

***Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Newsletter 22nd January 2023***

Fr John Collins 8405948
Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277
(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm)
Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Fri 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)
Website: www.swords-parish.com Email:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com
Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam
Mass times: Monday - Friday 10.00am, Saturday (Vigil) 6.30pm, Sunday 11.15am
Confessions:Saturday 6.00pm - 6.20pm



Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM
Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, Irish Mass at 11.00am



Mass Intentions this Weekend

Sat 6.30pm George McDonnell
Mary McMahan
Sun 11.15am Bartle McDonnell Jnr
Brendan Lawless



Mass intentions for next Next Week

Mon 10.00am James Reilly Thomas & Margaret O'Brien	
Tues 10.00am Caitlin Hegarty	
Wed 10.00am Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien Paddy Gerrard	Sat 6.30pm Madge O'Hara Mia Gogarty (1st)
Thurs 10.00am Patrick Molloy Carmel Hughes	Sun 11.15am Desmond Walsh Barney Lawless
Fri 10.00am John O'Reilly Pat Purcell	

Bethany Bereavement Support Group are offering telephone support, please contact Bridget at 085 2812985 from Sunday 22nd to Saturday 28th January. Please phone from 6-8pm. ***Details are also on the Parish website. You can also find information on <https://bethany.ie>***

Church Unity Week

Prayer for Christian Unity will take place on Tuesday 24th January at 8.00pm in St Columba's, Church of Ireland, Swords. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome

Lumen Gentium starts with the revival of the concepts of the Church as mystery, a sacrament, and the People of God. Instead of dwelling on the structures and government of the Church the document focuses on our call as a people united with one another and with God to bring about the reign of the Kingdom here on earth and in heaven.

Through their baptism all the faithful are seen to have a common call to share in the mission of Christ. All are called to be priest, prophet and king. All share in the common priesthood and the call to holiness based on love of God and love of neighbour.

Within this general baptismal call there are different roles and specific ways of living out the call such as the ordained ministry, the laity, and religious. No particular way is seen to be better or more holy than others. Each part of the Church shares in the mission in its own way. Lay people are shown to have their own vocation in their ordinary family and working lives. This reclaims the rightful place of lay members of the Church as among the People of God.

Looking back at the early Church we can see that the baptised belonged to a community that believed everyone had personal gifts which they could use for the benefit of the whole community and its mission. People were called to use these different gifts, but there was not a distinction of importance; it was all part of the one body. St Paul writes 'Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us in union with Christ, form one body, and as parts of it we belong to each other. Our gifts differ according to the grace given us.' [Rom 12:4-6]

By the third century this idealised equality had been lost. The word laos no longer applied to all the People of God, but only to those who were not exercising some priestly function. Over the centuries all power and authority in the Church came to be vested in the clerics. They were seen to be dealing with the sacred and the holy. The lay people who were very active participants in the early Church now became subordinate and inactive. They were seen to be less holy. They were expected to be obedient to the authority of the Church and its clerics.

Gradually, during the 19th century and into the 20th, the Church hierarchy and theologians began to re-evaluate the role of the laity. Enlightened thinkers such as Cardinal Newman (1801-1890) and the founders of the Society for Catholic Action saw that the lay people should be empowered for a mission of their own. The three popes named Pius who preceded John XXIII were promoters of the participation of the laity in the mission of the Church. These changes in thinking formed the background for Vatican II's new way of looking at the Church and the role of the laity
More about Lumen Gentium next week.

Safeguarding Information Evening.

A safeguarding information meeting for all Parish volunteers & Ministers, will take place in St Colmcille's Church on Monday 30th January at 7.00pm. This information session will include discussions on safeguarding of children and vulnerable and adults.