

In thanking God for such people in our lives, we also acknowledge that the Lord calls each of us to become a John the Baptist for others. Our baptism calls on us to live lives that help to point others in the direction that God wants them to take. We cannot become all that God wants us to be on our own; we need each other. Through our Baptism, we are called to be servants of God in our own sphere of living and to make the world around us a better place. We are told in the Gospels that Jesus went about doing good. What a beautiful way for us to make a public statement about our faith. Each day to try and do good.

Through good works, each of us, in our own way, completes the mission which Christ began after his baptism. Today is a day to ask ourselves if we are being true to the direction in which our lives were pointed at our baptism. *(Source: Jesus our Teacher by Fr. Martin Hogan)*

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Patrick O'Donovan	
Mon 10.00am Servant of God Alphonsus Lambe	Sat 10.00am Bartle McDonnell Sr
Tues 8.00am Norman Reynolds	William Watson
Tues 10.00am Martin Walsh & Mary Clune	
Wed 8.00am In Thanksgiving	
Wed 10.00 Pat Barnwell	Sat 6.30pm Judith Hamill
Thurs 8.00am Lily Markey	Sun 8.30am George McDonnell
Thurs 10.00am Noel McCaffrey	Sun 11.00am John Bateman
Fri 8.00am Maureen O'Connor	Sun 6.30pm Marie Doyle & Bridie Hoare
Fri 10.00am Jim Larkin	

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

There will be a Fundraising Committee Meeting on Tuesday 17th January at 8:00pm in the Hall.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

In John's Gospel, the first thing that any human being says of Jesus is found on the lips of John the Baptist: Look, there is the Lamb of God. We think naturally and correctly of the Passover lamb and of the Passover, the feast which marks the liberation of Israel. To be set free is a wonderful experience and we could reflect on how I experience my freedom in Christ. From what have I been set free? (For example, fear of death, the risk of absurdity, sins and false directions in life...). Even more important, for what have I been set free?

Prayer - Jesus, Lamb of God, help me to recognise whatever in me is holding me back from life in abundance. Give me your life, your forgiveness, your healing. In you I put my trust.

(Source: St. Paul's Missal)



Ordinary Time – cont'd

As I said last week Ordinary Time is about walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is by embracing the dying and rising mystery of Jesus that we receive the life of God within us and renew it each time we celebrate the liturgy. Although much of ordinary Time unfolds during the summer months when many are on holidays, when the heat brings us to slow down our pace of life *(we hope!)*, when there is a change in our pace of lives if for no other reason that 'school is out for summer', we must be careful that Ordinary Time doesn't become a temptation to 'holiday' from the demands of faithfully following Jesus

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948, 087 1621662
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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pointing to Others

“All the earth shall bow down before you, O God”

Newsletter Sunday 15th January 2017



In today's Gospel Reading, John the Baptist points to Jesus so as to direct people to him. Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John declared: 'Look, there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.' Those words of John have become part of our Eucharistic celebration. John's action of physically pointing to Jesus and identifying him as the Lamb of God sums up the meaning of John's life. You could say that John's whole life pointed to Jesus. Indeed, John even pointed his own followers in the direction of Jesus. With reference to Jesus, he had simply, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.' Great as John was, he had the humility to point to someone greater than himself. Pointing to one greater than himself and leading others to his person was the purpose of his life and mission.

Most of us can probably think of people who, in the course of our lives, pointed us in the right direction. These were people who could see just that little bit more clearly that we could at the time. We all need good guides from time to time; we need people who can point the way for us, people who, in the words of Paul's letter to the Philippians, can direct us towards, 'whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable'. It is true that that we can react negatively to people who come across as knowing what is best for us and who take it upon themselves to tell us what to do.

However, the art of pointing others in the right direction is more subtle than that. John the Baptist did not say to his disciples, 'Become disciples of Jesus'; he simply said, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God.' Those who point us in the right direction are sharing with us something of their experience and insight. Their sharing serves as an invitation rather than a command. Such sharing will not always be responded to. Not everyone that John pointed in the direction of Jesus went on to become a disciple of Jesus. The art of pointing others in the right direction needs to be joined to a profound respect for human freedom.

God guides us through others, and guides others through us. We are dependent on each other if we are to take the path that leads to God's Son. We can also of course hinder each other from taking this path. Jesus reserved some of his harshest words for those who led others astray, those who, in his own words, 'put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me'. Those who lead others astray are the opposite end of the spectrum to the likes of John the Baptist.

With the word 'pointing' in mind I think it appropriate this Sunday that we remember and give thanks for people, who, in the course of our lives, pointed us in the right direction. These of course include family members, friends, teachers, mentors or even on occasion a stranger. These were the people who could see just that little bit more clearly than we could at the time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us



World Day of Migrants and Refugees

This takes place today 15th January. In his pastoral message marking this important date in the Church calendar, Pope Francis reminds us how Jesus identified himself with strangers and outcasts: 'Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognised in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources, and occasionally to give up something of our acquired riches.' On this day we are asked to remember in our prayers those who have left our shores and also those who have joined us here in our parishes from overseas.

Let us remember in a special way those migrants whose journeys were filled with fear, trepidation and hostility. In particular, let us remember the elderly Irish community in Britain, the undocumented in the United States and Irish prisoners overseas. Closer to home we remember those who are victims of racism, human trafficking and those living in the direct provision system. May we all walk together in prayerful solidarity with migrant peoples – both at home and abroad. May they find comfort and shelter in our parish and in our community. (*Irish Bishop's Council for Emigrants*)

PLANNED GIVING/ENVELOPE COLLECTION: This is the main source of income for our Parish, and the only money retained by the parish. It covers all administration and general expenses. It pays for church and graveyard maintenance, sanctuary, cleaning, repairs, insurance etc. The envelopes for this year are now available for collection in the Parish Office, Seatown Rd. If you do not have one of these boxes I invite you to collect one or alternatively to set up a standing order.

THANK YOU: In these difficult economic times I thank you most sincerely for your continued very generous contributions to your priests; parish and diocese.

Week of Christian Unity-2017

Every year from the 18th to the 25th January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme is, "Reconciliation – The love of Christ Compels us" (2 Cor 5:14-20). The theme has its origins in the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel of Pope Francis: 'The love of Christ Compels Us'. The material for the Week composed by a committee representing different churches in Germany, also commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

Do This in Memory

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 as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC meets his Monday 16th January at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Lectio Divina

The group will resume their meeting on Tuesday 17th January and meet every Tuesday in the Parochial House, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. If you are interested in developing scripture in your life you will be most welcome.



Open Morning – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Morning will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Monday 16th January from 9am – 10.45 am. All welcome.

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment for girls starting school in September 2017 takes place from January 23rd – 27th, 9am – 10.30am each morning.

Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2017 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st **Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms**



New Year liturgy Seminar

The next Liturgy Seminar will take place on Saturday 28th January in Clonliffe College. The topics are; (A) Where to now?: for Baptism Teams (B) What has the Family Mass to offer? - for Family Mass Teams. These are full morning seminars. Half morning seminars; (C1) Who will speak, Colm Hogan from Trociare, (C2) Who's looking at who? - Key icons of the life of Christ (C3) Is 3 a crowd? - Trinity ideas for the season of Lent (C4) How can I keep from singing. For booking please contact Colette in the Parish Office

The Encounter Dublin City:

Are you looking for more in life? Join other young adults (20's & 30's) for a night of live acoustic music with Cormac Buckley, reflective prayer % adoration, with guest speaker Keith Kelly on life, faith & purpose. Followed by pizza & refreshments. This is a free event on Friday, Jan 20th at 8.00pm. St Paul's Church, Arran Quay (Smithfield).

www.facebook.com/theencounterdublincity

The Bible's Most Important People

Nehemiah – Sent at his own request, by Persian King Artaxerxes, to rebuild Jerusalem, Nehemiah became the governor of Jerusalem. Under his rule, Jerusalem's walls were rebuilt

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. A team, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced share their experiences with you.

Next Coping Programme will commence on Wednesday 8th February 2017 for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com. www.beginningexperience.ie