

Swords - St. Colmcille's / Deynam - Our Lady of the Visitation

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277

*(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)*Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 *(Mon - Sat 9.30am-10.30am)*Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net**BAPTISM OF THE LORD****Thanks to God, we can always start afresh***"Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God"**Newsletter Sunday 12th January 2014*

At a recent Angelus prayer Pope Francis, reaffirmed that the Gospel is "a proclamation of joy for all people" and that "the Church "is not a haven for sad people. The Church is the house of joy! And those who are sad find true joy in her". I think it a very good message as we begin the Year of Our Lord 2014.

"The joy of the Gospel, however, is not just any joy", said the Pope. "It is motivated by the knowledge that we are wanted and loved by God ... God is He Who comes to save us, and Who especially comes to the aid of a fearful heart. His coming among us strengthens us; it makes us stand firm, it gives us courage, it makes the desert and the steppe rejoice and bloom; our lives become arid without the water of God's Word and His Spirit of love. No matter how great our limitations and our disorientation, we are not permitted to be weak and uncertain in the face of difficulties and our own weaknesses. Instead, we are invited to strengthen our hands, to stand firm, to be courageous and not to fear, for our God always shows the greatness of His mercy. He gives us the strength to carry on. ... He is a God Who loves us very much, Who loves us and is therefore among us, to help us to grow stronger and to move on. Courage, on we go!"

Pope Francis added that, thanks to His help, "we can always start afresh", even when we are sure it is impossible. "Wrong!" he exclaimed. "You can start again, because he awaits you, He is close to you, He loves you, and He is merciful. ... We are able to open our eyes again, overcome sadness and tears and sing a new song. And this true joy stands up to the test, even of suffering, because it is not a superficial joy; on the contrary, it permeates the very depths of the person who entrusts himself to God".

Christian joy, like hope, "has its foundation in the faithfulness of God, in the certainty that He always keeps His promises. ... Those who have met Jesus along the way have experienced a serenity and joy that nothing and nobody can deprive them of. Our joy is Jesus Christ, His faithful and inexhaustible love! Therefore, when a Christian becomes sad it means that he or she has turned away from Jesus. But then we must not leave him alone, we must pray for him, and let him feel the warmth of the community".

The Virgin Mary, the Pope concluded, "helps us to hasten our steps toward Bethlehem to meet the Child Who is born for us, for the salvation and happiness of all humanity. ... May she help us to live the joy of the gospel in the home, at work, in the parish and in any environment. An intimate joy, born of wonder and tenderness. The same joy of a mother who looks at her newborn baby, aware that she has received a gift from God, a miracle for which she can only give thanks"

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

Mon 8.00 am Sean Melia

Mon 10.00am Mai Murphy

Tues 8.00 am Danny Browne

Tues 10.00 am Special Intention

Wed 8.00am Ena Stringer

Wed 10.00am Rachel McCarthy

Thurs 8.00am Kathleen Coleman

Thurs 10.00am Kevin Wynne

Fri 8.00am Des Becton

Fri 10.00am Sarah McCormack

Sat 10.00am Des Becton

Sat 6.30pm Richard & Eva Kearns

Sun 8.00am George McDonnell

Sun 10.00am Helena Smith

Sun 11.30am Frank Marron

Sun 7.30pm Pauline Temple



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Patrick Heron

Jugback Lane



Open Day – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Day' will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Wednesday 22nd January from 9am – 11 am. All welcome.

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment for girls starting school in September 2014 takes place from January 27th – 31st, 9am – 10.30am each morning. **Baptismal Certificate must accompany all forms**



Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2014 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st. **Baptismal Certificate must accompany all forms**



Planned Giving

New Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Parish Office, Parochial House Seatown Road

The Visitation of the BVM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

We had our first Pastoral Team meeting on Monday and discussed possible projects for 2014. We hope to connect the Church Hall to the Church, provide a protective canopy to prevent rain coming in the church door and some other pastoral projects. If you would like to help in any way, please let us know.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

BAPTISM Antiphon - *“After the Lord was baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove”*



Baptism

Baptism is the foundational Sacrament and the prerequisite for all other sacraments. It unites us with Jesus Christ, incorporates us into his redemptive death on the Cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, and causes us to rise with him to a life without end. Since baptism is a covenant with God, the individual must say 'Yes' to it. In the baptism of children, the parents confess the Faith on behalf of the children (CCC 1213 ff)

Parish Finances

As we begin 2014, may I take this opportunity of reminding you of how the various Church collections are managed:

FIRST COLLECTION: This collection pays our priests, and helps supports the priests of the Diocese, including those who are retired or sick.

SECOND COLLECTION: This collection helps maintain and build the poorer parishes in the Diocese and also goes towards the administration within the Dublin Diocese.

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 to your continued very generous contributions to your priests; parish and diocese.

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church

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. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords - Next Meeting 13th January . For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

Leticio Divina Group will resume their meeting on Tuesday 14th January and every Tuesday in Parochial House, Seatown Road, from 8pm – 9pm. *All*

SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina

Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday Tuesday 3rd – Tuesday 10th June 2014
Adriatic Coast

Chioggia is a quaint picturesque town on the Venetian lagoon about 25km south of Venice. It is in fact known as “Little Venice” because of its narrow streets, hump back canals and is completely unspoilt and full of character. A bridge leads to the neighbouring island of Sottomarina with its long sandy beaches bordering the Adriatic. This is where we will be based for the week

Price: €795.00 per person sharing

Price includes: Return flights Dublin-Venice 7 nights' accommodation : 4 star hotel; half board; B&B and Dinner., Day excursion to Venice by boat and day excursions to Ravenna and Padua

Extras: Single room supplement €25.00 per night for duration of stay Airport taxes: €85.00. baggage fee €40
Insurance: €36.00 (66+double premium applies)

**. Please contact Colette at the Parish Office for booking (€150 deposit per person). Balance of €100 by the end of January and remainder 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette: 8407277.
Brochures at back of Church**

Baptism

Baptism was not over and done with the day we were taken to the font.

We are baptized by all that happens to us in life.

We are baptized by hardship; in its turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless.

We are baptized by suffering; in its murky waters we grow in humility and compassion.

We are baptized by joy; in its gurgling waters we experience the goodness of life.

We are baptized by love; in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun.

Baptism is like the planting of a seed.

It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen. (Source: Flor McCarthy)



Reflection - Baptism

Begin by recalling some special moment between yourself and your parents. Did you ever hear from them the equivalent of “This is my son, my daughter, the beloved: my favour rests on you”? In Jesus’ ministry, on several occasions, he felt such a word from his Abba, his Father. His baptism by John was one such moment, as was the

Transfiguration later on. Such deep love and affirmation grounded him as a human being and as God’s prophet to the people of Israel. Our sense of calling grows out of our relationship with the Father, whose beloved we are, whose favour we enjoy.

Prayer

Let us hear again, Abba, Father, your words of favour to each one of us. Direct us on the Way of discipleship, that we may be bearers of the Good News by simply being who we truly are before you.