

When we read today's gospel, we must remind ourselves that the temptations in the desert are not just an uncomfortable incident in the life of Jesus but are an integral part of his mission. Jesus is tempted to eat when he is not supposed to eat, to take the easy route when that is not his way. We are also asked to reflect on our own lives and ask ourselves what it is that we really need? How does my lifestyle impact on the global climate? Do we need to continuously upgrade to the next best thing when really that is not necessary?

"I wish to address every person living on this planet ... I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home ... As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life". (Laudato Si', 3, 207).
(Source: Ash Wednesday homily by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in 2014 Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Douglas McCoy	Sat 10.00am Special Intention
Mon 10.00am Maurice & Vera O'Connor	
Tues 8.00am Christina Kealy	Sat 6.30pm Richard & Eva Kearns
Tues 10.00am Elvira Murphy	Sun 8.30am Matthew & Mary Darcy & Matthew Jnr
Wed 8.00am DJ McNamara	Sun 11.00am Mary & Matthew Dillon
Wed 10.00 Paul Byrne	Mary Greenan (1st An)
Thurs 8.00am Robert Donovan	Sun 6.30pm Thomas McGrane
Thurs 10.00am Christine Smith	
Fri 8.00am Kathleen McDonnell	
Fri 10.00am Paddy Barker	

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
 Tea and coffee after all Masses today, please join us for a cuppa. We will have a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting on Tuesday at 8:00PM.

First Sunday of Lent
 The temptations in today's Gospel are not at all temptations to this or that sin but rather fundamental options which matter for the direction of life. Jesus was tempted in the course of his ministry to choose another way of being God's prophet, the Messiah or anointed. In a less spectacular way, we too can be attracted by choices which shape the way our life unfolds. We ask ourselves, what do I live on? What's my true goal? Where is my nourishment? The human, no less than the Kingdom, is more than food and drink. Only the Word of God truly nourishes and illuminates.
Prayer - Lord, in you we live and move and have our being and we thank you. Help us to place you and your Word at the heart of all we do and, even more, at the core of who we are.
 (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

St. Vincent de Paul
 The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **next** weekend at all Masses

Liturgy Group
 The Liturgy group will meet on Tuesday 7th March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

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



1st Sunday of Lent
A poignant time for Reflection!
"When he calls on me, I will answer him"
 Newsletter Sunday 5th March 2017



In last week's newsletter I gave the Archbishop's reflection on the first formula used on Ash Wednesday, "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return". He also gave a reflection on the second formula,

"Repent, and believe in the Gospel"

Reflection on 2nd formula

Hope is never abstract; faith leads to a hope that challenges the way we live. It challenges us to see what the things in life are that really matter and that endure. This is where the second formula for the imposition of ashes finds its place. The more we reflect on our fragility and precariousness, the more we must seek things that really endure. Our awareness of our fragility and precariousness lead us to feel the need to repent: to turn around to refocus our lives in a different direction. The Gospel calls us to come away from what is fleeting and transient and imminent and superficial and seek the transcendent. Our Gospel reading indicates how this is done. The one who believes in the Gospel will not parade his or her good deeds in order to be noticed or to get the headlines. You will do good deeds because the good is to be done. You will do good because of the very nature of the goodness to which we are called and which is the ultimate measure of the value of our lives. If we pray, we do not go out and let everyone have the impression that we really know how to pray. If we sincerely and with integrity attempt to enter into a relationship of intimacy with God, then the tone of our prayers will not be beautiful formulae which someone else had written, but may well be the stuttering of sincerity which is the mark of any sincere relationship. Praying will not be us telling ourselves how great we are, but opening our hearts to God, the ultimate goodness who can break through into the very depth of our being and change us.

If we believe in the Gospel we will see that the true sense of fasting is once again recognition of the fact that there are some essentials which determine the value of life.

Fasting is not self-rejection. Faith rejoices in human advancement and success. But faith in the transcendent recalls that true success is never just self-focused, but involves living lives of simplify and sobriety, rejecting the superficialities and the false securities that we establish for ourselves.

Lent offers us the instruments of prayer, fasting and works of charity that help us to repent and follow the Gospel. In Lent we journey with Jesus as his self-giving love leads to his death, knowing however that it is the same love which ultimately opens then the real key to hope which is resurrection.

First Sunday of Lent 2017: Matthew 4:1-11

The gospel today sets us out on our lenten journey as we, like Jesus, are led into the wilderness. Lent can be a poignant time for reflection, for looking at our lives and our relationships with the world and asking 'how am I doing?' Lent invites us to enter into a subtle transformation with the people and the world around us.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Lord I have come to believe that you are the Christ



The Meaning of Lent

Our word “Lent” comes from an old English word *lencten*, meaning to lengthen or to grow longer. These days, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, each day there are two minutes more light in the morning and two minutes more light in the evening. So, “Lent” really means springtime. This tells us precisely what is supposed to happen in this springtime of the faith: new shoots, spring growth, signs of life and joy. So, whatever I undertake this Lent, may it lead to a new springtime of faith for me and my community. Lent is the Church’s ‘holy spring’. Even though it is a time of self-denial, it is also a time of joy, because we are preparing for Easter. Lord, help us to let go of old habits of sin, and clothe us in newness of life, so that when Easter comes, we will feel young again in our discipleship.

100 Years of Our Lady of Fatima –

The Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima blessed by Pope Francis on the occasion of the jubilee and centenary year (Nov 27th 2016 to Nov 26th 2017) will visit the church of “The Sacred Heart”, **Yellow Walls, Malahide on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.30pm.** *A plenary indulgence will be granted on those who will participate in the Centenary celebration.* Pope Francis blessed 6 pilgrim statues of Our Lady of Fatima. One to travel to each continent (two for America). Re-echoing the appeal for prayer and preparation for world peace and to promote the sanctity of family life



Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Saturday 4th March to Sunday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12th of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. It reached Ireland in 1712 when it was first celebrated in Mary’s Lane Chapel in St Michan’s Parish, Dublin. Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. ‘Grace’ is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favour or free gift from God. Christians often ask God for favours, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.

Trocaire

In Ireland, Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around! The Trociare boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information with the theme for this year being water. Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.



Time for Yourself week of GUIDED PRAYER 26th - March- 1st April, Parishes of Swords, Rivervalley and Brackenstown

This is a way of making a directed retreat in the midst of our busy day. The retreat is for everyone and the structure is simple. It begins on Sunday evening with a group introduction to the format of the week; some explanation of Praying With Scripture; some time in prayer together; meeting your personal guide; a chance to ask any questions...and share some light refreshments together!!

Each day you are asked to spend time reflecting on a particular scripture passage, letting it speak to you in your present life situation, and then coming to the parish each day to talk about it with a trained Prayer Guide for half an hour.

These one-to-one sessions run from Monday to Friday at a time convenient to you. The week ends with everyone coming together to share their experiences.

First Meeting ; Sunday 26th March in Brackenstown Pastoral Centre at 6.30pm

Morning Sessions 10.30am - 12.30 pm in St Colmcille’s, Parochial House

Afternoon Sessions : 2.30pm - 4.30pm in St Finian’s Rivervalley

Evening sessions; 6.30pm - 8.30pm St. Cronan’s, Brackenstown.

Closing session ; Saturday 1st April St Finian’s, Rivervalley at 7.30pm

To take part please fill in and return the Guided Prayer leaflet, which you can get from the back of the Church or the Parish Office by Sunday 12th March. Cost: Offering by envelope...



Lent: springtime of the spirit

Each year the trees give us a lesson in renewal. First the bud, then the blossom, and finally the shoot. Spring dresses the trees in a new robe, and makes them young again. But this is possible only because in autumn they let go of their old leaves, and in between endured a period of nakedness. Lent is in the springtime of the spirit. Lord, help us not to be afraid to let go of old habits, and to face our spiritual poverty, in order that you may renew us, and so at Easter we will feel young again in our discipleship. *(Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)*

Stations of Cross

For the Season of Lent, I have placed prayers and reflections under each of the Stations in the Church. They will remain for Lent and will I hope help if you are not sure what to pray when at each station. I have put them there to encourage the praying of the stations during Lent and parents will I trust find them helpful if they want to teach their children with them. *If you are very busy you could ‘space out’ the stations and pray them over the course of a week*

