

Pope Francis writes: "Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated the world. When all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection spring. In the midst of darkness something always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land, life breaks through stubbornly yet invincibly".

As a Christian community we are called to be light in the world. We are called to be with those for whom darkness is excruciating and who see no future, no hope. Woe to a Church which with harsh words would hide or destroy or dim the light in people's hearts. Woe to a Church which would prevent the light of Christ from appearing as it should.

We celebrate this Holy Night of the Resurrection of Jesus in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Resurrection means that death has been definitively conquered. Resurrection means that hope can always be realised even in the darkest moments of history and can be brought into the darkest corners of our own hearts.

*Fr. Michael Carey*

#### **Mass intentions for Next Week**

Mon 8.00am Helen Scully

Mon 10.00am John & Catherine Wade

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am Elizabeth & Tommy McKitterick  
& deceased family members

Wed 8.00am Eileen Buckley

Wed 10.00am Michael, Bridget & Tom King

Thurs 8.00am David McDonnell

Thurs 10.00am Joseph Coleman

Fri 8.00am Kathleen Doyle

Fri 10.00am Marion Nulty

Sat 10.00am Michael & Mary Vesey

Mary Stafford

Sun 6.30pm Bernadette & Jim McConville

& Anna Walsh

Sun 8.30am Mick Dunphy

Sun 11.00am John Collins

Peter McQuillan (MM)

Mary Greenan (MM)

Sun 6.30pm Elizabeth McGuinness

#### **Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish) & 12 noon . Mon 9.20am**

The Drynam Pastoral Team will have its monthly meeting tomorrow evening. Let us know if you wish to add an item to the agenda. Tea and coffee after Masses today.



#### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Annie Wherrity**

**Nuala Ryan**

**Rathbeale Crescent**

**Drynam Road**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER** (or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

The Easter or Paschal candle is a reminder to us of the presence of the risen Lord among his people when they assemble in his name. Its flame is bright and alive. His presence among us is dynamic and empowering. It gives light in the darkness. Jesus as the light of the world is the clearest revelation of God that has ever been or will ever be.

**Reflection** - In the Easter season we celebrate our Redemption. What does this mean? The biblical background sheds much light on it. If a Hebrew person were sold into slavery because of debt his nearest relative would redeem him, that is, would pay what was needed in order to restore him to freedom. Redemption begins in this life when people can worship God in conditions that are worthy of their dignity as human beings and it continues into the next when the glory of Christ's resurrection will be theirs. (Source: St. Paul's Missal.)

**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**



2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

#### **The Spiritual Works of Mercy**

*"Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God"*

**Newsletter Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

The Easter Octave, where Easter Sunday is so important that it is spread over 8 days, is an appropriate time to have an Easter Homily – and below is an extract from the Archbishop's Easter

Homily given in the Pro-Cathedral last week

"Why are you seeking the living among the dead?" In this night the entire Church of God slowly begins to break the silence of a Church in mourning; a Church which has been holding vigil around a tomb: a tomb, the symbol of the end of human hope.

Jesus, whose life had filled his followers with such hope, has faced the ignominious death of a common criminal. Many of his closest disciples have fled and deserted him at the first sign of what appeared to them to be a catastrophe. The work of Jesus, who had marvellously taught his followers about the mercy and loving kindness of God, seems to have been overtaken and defeated – first by lies and then by death brought about the corrupt.

The disciples are in disarray. Early in the morning some women who had prepared spices, with which to anoint a dead body, head for the tomb with heavy hearts. They head out to the grave to carry out the normal rituals of anointing a dead body.

They set out to find a dead body but they do not find it. The stone has been rolled away from the tomb. They fear – as Pilate indeed had also feared might happen – that someone had taken the body. They are saddened that they do not find the body of Jesus and they do not understand.

Then two figures in dazzling garments surprise them with a question: "Why are you seeking the living among the dead. He is not here, he has been raised".

What does it mean that Jesus has been raised? What does it mean for Jesus himself and what does the Risen Christ say not just to us as individuals but to human history and to the world around us.

Jesus' resurrection is not like that of Lazarus. He does not return to ordinary biological life which is always subject to death. Lazarus was raised from the dead, but he later died. Jesus resurrection is definitive. Neither is Jesus just a ghost, someone who though already dead occasionally seems to reappear in the world of the living. The risen Jesus in no way belongs to the realm of death. Jesus has conquered death. Jesus' resurrection is a real event in real concrete history but an event that changes history.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ enters history, as we have recalled in the great Exultet hymn, as an explosion of light: light which illuminates the darkness; light which allows us to see reality as it is; light which enables us to discern the good from what is evil. Our liturgy this evening reminds us visibly how darkness already begins to be dispelled even when only one single flicker of light appears. Even one single flicker of light can be the beginning of hope within any darkness.

This is the message which the Church is called to preach. **The Church is called to speak resurrection language, not the language of death.** Even when surrounded by darkness that is tangible, the presence of the Risen Lord is among us always creating a space and a hope of life.



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

### From Where I Stand

As I look back over Holy Week and more especially the Easter Triduum or the Easter Ceremonies, I must say that I have been deeply moved. There was a wonderful participation, which is always very heartening for the priest, but it is encouraging for all of us.

From where I stand at the Presider's chair and look down it was wonderful to see so many faces. The faces I've come to recognise in my time here, the faces that I didn't recognise!! Of course it's not a numbers game, but we are a large parish and so a certain number, without quantifying, is expected. Well the attendance/participation was excellent, and is a source of hope for all of us.

All the ceremonies, in both our churches, went off very well and that was due in no small part to the Parish Sisters; Liturgy Team, Sacristans, Parish Secretary, Drynam Pastoral Team, Choir, Folk Group, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Altar servers, and the volunteers. But important and necessary as all preparation and teams are, there was something else - the participation of the congregation during a liturgy, i.e. your participation.

It was prayerful, reverential, and enthusiastic. We all felt that in some way during each liturgy and it 'lifted us' up. Not only that, but it was a source of encouragement for each other, a wellspring of hope. It reaffirmed our sense of parish, our sense of community. One other observation, and without being overly charismatic, the Holy spirit was present, strengthening and renewing us with His gifts (*which we received at confirmation*), especially I believe the gift of 'wonder and awe in God's presence'. This is the gift which enables us to see God's presence in ourselves, in each other and every person and God's presence in nature and the world.

We are now in the fifty days of Easter, so why not reflect back on those 3 days (The Easter Triduum- Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday), giving thanks for the Holy Spirit at work in our parish of St. Colmeille's and Our Lady of the Visitation and perhaps more challenging, discerning what the Holy Spirit was saying and asking of each one of us.

### 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.

### Easter Dues

If you did not receive an Easter Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church. If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in Sacristy or Parish Office.



### Year of Mercy

The ninth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - This parable, the “ruthless servant,” contains a profound teaching for all of us. Jesus affirms that mercy is not only an action of the Father, it becomes a criterion for ascertaining who his true children are. In short, we are called to show mercy because mercy has first been shown to us. Pardoning offences becomes the clearest expression of merciful love, and for us Christians it is an imperative from which we cannot excuse ourselves. At times how hard it seems to forgive! And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence, and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully. Let us therefore heed the Apostle's exhortation: “Do not let the sun go down on your anger” (Eph 4:26). Above all, let us listen to the words of Jesus who made mercy an ideal of life and a criterion for the credibility of our faith: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5:7): the beatitude to which we should particularly aspire in this Holy Year.

### The Bible's Most Important People

**David** – Popular king of Israel. As a young shepherd and musician, David was anointed King by the prophet Samuel in disobedient King Saul's place. David vanquished the Philistine giant, Goliath. Following a battle with the Philistines and the deaths of Saul and his sons, David was anointed king of Judah. Later he also became king of Israel. David wrote many of the psalms and sang a song of praise about the victories God brought him (2 Sam 22). Despite his failings, scripture refers to David as a man after God's own heart. (Acts 13:22)

### Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April** after the 10.00am Mass. Can the cleaners for this first Friday of the month please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

**Swords Bridge Club** would like to thank all who supported their recent charity event for Swords Conference of St Vincent de Paul, and a special thanks to traders who donated prizes.

### Saints this coming week: The Annunciation of the Lord (April 4th)

Because March 25<sup>th</sup> fell Good Friday this feast day has been transferred to Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>. It celebrates Mary's 'Yes' to the Angel Gabriel that she be the mother of 'Our Lord'. We are holy because Jesus is holy. We do not earn holiness by doing good deeds, but our good deeds – our care and concern for others - is a concrete expression of our holiness, our relationship with God. We celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in our own lives by our faithful living of the divine Life that was first given us in baptism and continues to grow in us as we, like Mary, say yes to God in all we do.

- **St. Vincent de Paul** : The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up next weekend at all Masses
- **Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim** w Niedziele 10 Kwietnia, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)
- **A date for your diary**: The fundraising committee will be running its annual **Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on Friday 10th June 2016.**