

“This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mk 1:15).

Another surprise: the relationship of Jesus with his family and particularly with his disciples shows more conflict and harshness than we encounter in the later evangelists, hardly what one would expect from the loving Jesus. Likewise, the Markan Jesus seems to show more ‘human’ reactions – anger, frustration, disappointment – than he does in the other three gospels. Another surprise, again in comparison to the other three canonical gospels, is that in Mark’s original version there was almost exclusive emphasis on the suffering entailed in being a disciple of the Messiah; the stories of the new life of resurrection were added later, probably after the appearance of the other three gospels. An interesting structural surprise has become known as the ‘messianic secret,’ that is, Jesus often instructs someone he has healed or forgiven not to reveal who he is. The time for full revelation of his identity only comes after his suffering, death and resurrection. *Continued next week (Source: Living Liturgy and CTS Bible)*

Fr. Michael Carey Adm.

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

Mon 8.00am Eleanor Greany	Sat 10.00am Jacqueline Monaghan
Mon 10.00am Damien Burke	
Tues 8.00 am Special Intention	Sat 6.30pm Dick O’Connell
Tues 10.00am Stephanie Larkin	Peter & Mary Wilson
Wed 8.00am Mary McDonagh	Peter O’Gorman (MM)
Wed 10.00 am Joseph, Annie & Charlie Sweetman	Sun 8.30am Sheila Fitzsimons
Thurs 8.00am Olivia Dunne	Sun 10.00am Thomas & Eileen O’Connell
Thurs 10.00am Sheila McShane	Sun 11.30am Alan Caul & Olivia Bolger
Fri 8.00am Anne McManus	Sun 7.30pm Thomas, Annie & James McKenna
Fri 10.00 am Peter Vecchio	

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Agnes Maxwell
Elizabeth Meenan
Eddy Flanagan

Oaklands Ave
St Columba’s Rise
Melrose Park



Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am (Irish) & 12 noon

The Look Sunday sheet is available at the back of the church. Put together by Redemptorist Publications it explains today’s Gospel story in a fun way. Suitable for 4 – 9 year olds. Don’t forget to bring a copy with you for children at home.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The first reading each Sunday is chosen because of a connection with the gospel of the day. Sometimes an incident occurring in the gospel is seen to be foreshadowed by an earlier event in the Hebrew Scriptures. Other times they will both contain a similar theme. However, before rushing to see how the first reading is fulfilled in the gospel, it is advisable to try to find out what the first reading meant in its own day. A second step can then be to see how both readings enlighten each other.

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)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Gospel according to Mark (Part 1)

“O Come, let us worship God...for he is the Lord our God”



Newsletter Sunday 8th February 2015

Introduction

The liturgical year, which began in Advent is called imaginatively Year B, is the Year when St. Mark’s Gospel is read on Sundays.

Of the four Canonical books that record the ‘good news’ (*evangelium*, gospel) (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) brought by Jesus Christ, the first three are so alike that they can, in many passages, be placed side by side and viewed as it were at a glance: for this reason they are called ‘synoptic’ (‘at one glance’) - the Synoptic Gospels.

Overview of the four gospels

The four Gospels have pride of place in the New Testament as principled witness to the life and teachings of Jesus. They are not a biography or a chronological account of the life and times of Jesus in the way books are written today. But the gospels are historical in character, the stories and traditions about Jesus which they contain were faithfully handed down to the Apostolic communities shaping the way of life of these communities. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the significance of the events of the life of Jesus came to be understood more and more fully. After some decades of this oral (by way of mouth) transmission the record of what Jesus has said and done came to be written down by the apostles or members of the apostolic community. Each author put their own ‘stamp’ on their gospel by stressing different aspects. The four different accounts, each with its own character and richness, form a fourfold gospel, which, since the end of the first Christian century, has been the norm of all Christian life.

The Gospel according to Mark

In the order of Gospels given in the New Testament, Mark appears second after Matthew. Until about the mid nineteenth century, it was thought that Matthew’s gospel was the oldest. Since then scholars agree that Mark’s is the first of the canonical gospels, being written shortly after the year 70AD – the year the Romans destroyed the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Hence, the context of the gospel is a community concerned with imminent persecution. This gospel addresses a Roman community of both Gentile and Jewish Christians and ‘invites’ them to follow Jesus of Nazareth as his disciples.

The Gospel of Surprises

Mark did not write a biography of Jesus in the modern sense, for he leaves out many details which would be fascinating to a modern reader, the appearance of Jesus, his childhood, his psychological development. He chooses and presents the incidents in order to convey the message of Jesus Christ, son of God. It is sometimes called the ‘gospel of surprises’. For example, this gospel does not begin with the conception and birth of Jesus but rather with John the Baptist and the announcement of Jesus’ coming, “One mightier than I is coming after me” (Mk1:7). The very first of Jesus’ words recorded by Mark announce Jesus’ ministry:

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be consoled”

Statistics

Every January each Parish has to return statistics to the Chancellery for the previous 12 months. I have just returned the stats for the Parish of Swords/Drynam for 2014 and the figures might be of interest. Number of Baptisms conferred **123 (2013 - 131)**. Number of Confirmations conferred **94 (2013-116)**. Number of Marriages contracted **13 (2013-12)**. Number of Funerals celebrated **44 (2013 – 24)**



Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday 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

St. Colmcille's - Revised Mass Schedules

The new revised schedule has been in the newsletter these past weeks. The combination of Sunday Masses being presented to the Parish is as follows:

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm (Folk Group); Sunday 8.30am; 11.00am (Parish Choir) and 6.30pm.

Is there a possible 3 Sunday Mass combination (leaving the Saturday Vigil unchanged) that has been overlooked? I invite proposals for an alternative Sunday Mass schedule. Please write a combination of 3 Sunday Mass times and (*not that I want to keep this Mass or don't change the time of this one etc*). **If you are in agreement or at least understand and broadly accept the new schedule**, then there is no need to complete the suggestion page. I hope that this is a fair response to the observations expressed by Parishioners. The result of this weekend's exercise will be considered by the Parish Pastoral Council.

What about the 'Do This in Memory' Mass? (DTIM)

I wrote extensively on this last weekend. As a result of discussing this with the Liturgy group last week, it has been decided to consider moving the DTIM Mass for St. Colmcille's GNS to the Sunday evening at 6.30pm (*if the proposed 'new' Mass Schedule as outlined is going ahead*) in a fortnight's time.

First Penance

Last week the girls and boys of our Parish Schools celebrated their First Penance. It was a lovely occasion for the girls and boys and their parents were rightly proud of their children. I thank the teachers for the preparatory work that they are undertaking and the parents for presenting their children for this Sacrament. St Colmcille'e GNS: Ms. Howard; Ms. McMonagle and Principal Ms. Karen Burke-Logue. St. Colmcille's BNS: Ms Powell. Ms Flood, Ms Lavin and Principal Mr. Jim Bennet

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: Anyone who knows Easter cannot despair. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945 Lutheran theologian, put to death in a Nazi concentration camp)

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up after all Masses this weekend

Accord

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses next **weekend 14th/15th February**. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. 'Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, is a unique sacrament in that its essence is not about a special additional blessing, marriage is about a human reality. It is about a human relationship which is so vital for the good of humanity that it is raised to the level of a sacrament. The human reality of marriage becomes a witness to the love Christ has for his Church and draws its strength from that love of Jesus Christ' (Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – Accord letter)

A lonely place

Jesus often went off to a lonely place to pray. Yet the same Jesus who prayed in lonely places said, 'When you pray, go to your room, and pray to your Father in secret'. This means that the lonely place is not necessarily a place far away, or that by 'room' he means four walls that separate us physically from others. The room is the room of our innermost heart. This room is with us at all times. We should make it a place to which we can go to find rest and spiritual recovery when the world is too much with us. Then we will discover that the inner room is not empty after all, but is occupied by the God of love who dwells in us all. (Source: Flor McCarthy SDB)

Lenten Bible Study Are you wondering what to do this Lent? Why not join us in St Cronan's for a seven week Lenten Bible study of the Gospels of Matthew & Mark? The reading plan will run from Monday 09/02/15 and end on 30/03/15, which is the Monday of Holy Week. There will be meetings each Monday at 7.30-8.30 pm to review and discuss the previous week's reading, and you will be provided with a reading guide for the following week. To register your interest please email brackenstownparish@gmail.com or phone 8401188. Guest speaker on Monday 9th is Fr. Paddy Boyle. All are welcome!

Anam Cara is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 18th of February 2015 from 19:30 to 21:30 in Applewood Community Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. The guest speaker for the evening is Peter Hanlon and the topic is "A Parents Grief & Loss". All Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to bereaved parents. RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tuesday, 17th February 2015 or call us 01 4045378.

Feasts this Week

St Scholastica, virgin – Tuesday 10th February, died c.543 was a sister of St Benedict. When she met her brother for the last time, a sudden rainstorm providentially prolonged the meeting; three days later St. Benedict saw her soul ascend to heaven as a dove (her symbol in art)

Our Lady of Lourdes - Wednesday 11th February On this day in 1858, Our Lady first appeared to the 14 yr. old Bernadette Soubirous. Later Bernadette was to learn that the mysterious lady was the Blessed Virgin and to hear from her lips, 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. There were 18 apparitions in all, the last of which was on 16 July 1858

Ss Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe - Saturday 14th February, St Cyril (826-69) and St. Methodius (815-85) were brothers who evangelized Moravia, Bohemia and Bulgaria and are venerated as the 'Apostles of the Slavs.' They translated liturgical books into Slavonic with the help of the Cyrillic alphabet, which they invented. In 1980 St John Paul II proclaimed them Patrons of Europe, along with St Benedict