

immediately. As we stood in the queue we admired the clock tower which stands on the north side of the square. Two bronze statues of the Moors at the top of the tower strike the hours. Below is a sculpture of St Mark's Lion. Further down is a copper statue of the Madonna and Child. The gilt and blue enamel clock face is very beautiful. The Campanile dominates the Square. Originally a lookout tower, it has been rebuilt over the centuries. The Basilica is awe inspiring outside and inside. It has five huge domes and the facade mosaics tell the story of the recovery of the body of St Mark. The four upper lunettes depict the death, descent into hell, the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. The interior of the Basilica is equally impressive. One visit is not enough. It merits and requires several visits. The domes, walls and floor of the Basilica are covered by over four thousand square metres of golden mosaics. They illustrate the Old Testament and New Testament stories and tell the story of salvation. Nothing equals the Gold Altarpiece which contains two hundred and fifty panels, many of which depict the life of Christ.



On leaving the Basilica, our Guide took us along the main canal towards the Rialto Bridge. We had lunch in a cafe by the canal which is Venice's main thoroughfare. It was amazing to watch the waterbuses making their way skilfully past the delivery boats, gondolas and water taxis on "the most beautiful street in the world". After lunch we explored the area around the Rialto Bridge before returning to St Mark's Square for a second visit. As we sailed across the Lagoon once more, aware that we had, had a unique experience, we watched fondly until "the Serenissima" faded from view".

**Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:**  
**Mon** 8.00am People of the Parish  
**Mon** 10.00am Ann Treacy & dec members of Treacy Family  
**Tues** 8.00am Joseph & Brenda McGuire  
**Tues** 10.00am Madeline & James Higgins  
**Wed** 8.00 am Patricia Hennelly  
**Wed** 10.00am Karl Martin Harrison & Dec members of Harrison Family  
**Thurs** 8.00am Special Intention  
**Thurs** 10.00 am Marie Corby  
**Fri** 8.00 Altar List of the Dead  
**Fri** 10.00am Altar List of the Dead  
**Sat** 10.00 am Fr Seán O'Neill

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

**Sat 6.30 pm** John Flynn  
**Sun 8.30am** Catherine McNally & dec members of McNally & McLoughlin Family  
**Sun 11.30am** Fr Seán O'Neill  
**Sun 7.30pm** Mary McGrane

**Church of the Visitation Drynam**

**The Visitation of the BVM**

**Drynam Mass Times for July and August:** Mon, Tue, Wed each week: 9.20 am

Fri 1st August and Fri 15th August: 9.20am

Sun: 10.00 am and 12.00 am

Regular 9.20 am Mass on Fridays and 11.00am Irish Mass on Sundays will resume in September.



**St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock**

St Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock takes place on Saturday 9th August. Coach departs from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. Cost for coach only is €15. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. For booking contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 01 840226

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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)



**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Parish holiday to Adriatic Coast – Part 1**

*"God is in his holy place,...he himself gives might and strength to his people"*

**Newsletter Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014**



We are now in the holiday season, so I thought that a review of our Parish Holiday by one of its participants might make for interesting reading. I thank Una Kearns Chairperson of Whitehall Parish Pastoral Council for writing this week's and next week's newsletter. We were a group of twenty six, nine from the Swords area grouping, including myself, two from Sutton and fifteen from Whitehall.

"When we landed at Marco Polo airport, in Venice, we were overjoyed to learn that the temperature was a very pleasant twenty four degrees. Having met our Guide we boarded the coach and travelled through the beautiful countryside to Le Tegnue Hotel in Sottomarina which was to be our base for the next week. We were at leisure there for the afternoon to visit the cafes, walk on the beach, get acquainted with the area or relax by the pool. Of course, those who love the water took the opportunity to swim in the sea or in the pool.

We were up early next morning in order to catch our boat for Venice. This is probably the best way to travel to Venice for the first time, as one gets a different perspective of the cityscape from the water. We sailed up the Lagoon past a myriad of boats, markers which indicate water depth, thin sandbanks, and islands on the right and left. Our Guide gave us a lot of information about Venice and the islands as we sailed along. Gradually Venice rose serenely from the water and finally we got the breathtaking view of the Doge's Palace, the domes of St. Mark's Cathedral, the Campanile and the other ornate buildings. Goethe spoke of Venice as "that great Being born from the womb of the sea". When we disembarked our Guide took us on a tour of the city. We walked along the crowded Riva Degli Schiavoni past the Church of the Pieta, which began its life as a home for orphans, but became famous because of the work of Vivaldi with the Pieta choir. Today it is a concert venue, largely featuring the works of Vivaldi. When we came to the Bridge of Straw we were able to view the Bridge of Sighs, which links the Doge's Palace with the prisons. Legend has it, that the bridge gets its name, because of the sighing of the prisoners as they crossed from the courts back to their cells.

We passed by the great columns of San Marco and San Teodoro and entered St Mark's Square. This must be the most elegant square in Italy. On his arrival in 1797, Napoleon called it "the finest drawing room in Europe", and the description still fits today. The eastern end of the square is dominated by the Doge's Palace and St Mark's Basilica. As the queue to enter the Basilica was short our Guide encouraged us to join it

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits."*

### Living the Paschal Mystery

This "treasure" does have its cost: we must actively search for it, recognise it when we find it, and sort out all the distractions that keep us from recognising it. In the gospel the seekers go out in obvious places to find the treasure. For us, the discovery of the kingdom of heaven is most often in our everyday circumstances when we experience overwhelmingly the in-breaking of God's presence. This may be something so simple as the smile of a person's grateful thanks or the sense of rightness that comes with fidelity of daily prayer. It may be something more challenging, as admitting that we've hurt another. It may be demanding, such as committing time to help those in need. The issue is to recognise that God chooses to be present to us and wants us to seek that presence with all our hearts! (Source: *Living Liturgy*)



### Lourdes

The Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes in September is now closed. All the available places have been booked.

### Dublin Priest appointed to new Vatican Media Role

The Holy See has announced the appointment by Pope Francis of a Dublin priest to a new high profile committee tasked with reforming the Vatican media around the world. Monsignor Paul Tighe, currently Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has been appointed Secretary to a new Committee for Vatican media, headed up by experts from the Vatican and around the world. It will be chaired by former BBC Trust Chairperson, Lord Chris Patten. Mons. Paul Tighe was born on the 12th February 1958. He attended the De La Salle Primary School, Navan and completed his secondary education at Summerhill College, Sligo. He graduated from University College Dublin in 1979 with a degree in Civil Law. Having studied for the priesthood at Holy Cross College, Dublin and at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, he was ordained a priest of the Dublin Diocese in 1983.

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE** Everything that is not eternal is worthless in eternity.....Clive Staples CS Lewis (1898-1963 author of the Chronicles of Narnia)

### God's Housekeepers

The Parish is urgently in need of a new team of Church cleaners. About four people are required and it involves about 30 minutes work once a month, preferably to be done after the 10 o'clock weekday Mass. If you are free to do this good deed, please leave your name in the Sacristy or contact Colette in the Parish Office 8407277

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

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, Parochial House, Seatown Road, - Next Meeting 28th July .For further information please phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

## Standing Orders

Over 80 houses have received notification from the Parish concerning the closure of our account by Danske Bank. The letter requests the setting up of a new standing order. To date we have received back around 35. Thank you to all who have done so. Can I prevail upon the outstanding recipients to return as soon as possible? **Thank You**

## St. Colmcille's - Summer Schedule

There will be no 10.00am Sunday Morning Mass from next Sunday until 14<sup>th</sup> September when it will resume. There is a 10.00am Mass in the Church of the Visitation, Drynam and St. Finian's, River Valley

## We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Daphné Alicia Yenot, Séan Des Cloonan, Lennon Christopher O'Brien, Jayden Aaron Elliott, Frankie Beau Heeney

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our conviction is that God loves us wholly, in the double sense that he loves us fully and completely and his desire is that grace should touch every dimension of our lives. Anyone who has made the discovery of faith, like the merchant in search of fine pearls, will know what is meant: it is so wonderful that it leads to a discipleship costing not less than everything. It can be daunting, of course, but it leads to life in abundance (Jn 10:10).

**Prayer** - God of the covenant, faithful and true, you offer us both love and a way of living. As we embrace your love for each of us, help us so to live that we may fully be alive with your Good News.

## Feast this Week

**St. Martha – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July.** Sister of Lazarus and Mary, is a woman of faith who made her profession of faith in Christ as the Son of God, and in the resurrection. In welcoming a guest we welcome Christ: we show our Christian spirit of service; and we ready ourselves to be welcomed as guests in the Kingdom of God. Patron of innkeepers, cooks and dieticians.

**St. Ignatius of Loyola – Thursday 31st July.** 1491-1556, from the north of Spain, founded the Society of Jesus. He was injured at the battle of Pamplona (1521) and experienced a conversion during his convalescence. By the time of his death, the society had spread widely and had over one thousand members. His great theme was the service of God and God's greater glory. The experience of his conversion led to his writing of the Spiritual Exercises.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Mary Gregan**

**Thomas Gavillet**

**Mooretown Ave**

**Coolock**

