

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

Holy Week

As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to participate as much as possible in the Parish Ceremonies, especially the Triduum. **The readings and liturgies are powerful, so please do come along** The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is usually the least well attended liturgy and it is a beautiful Mass. On Good Friday, if for work or other reason you cannot make the 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, please make sure to visit some church and venerate the cross. You then have the option of the Solemn Vigil or the Easter Sunday Mass.

Year of Mercy

The ninth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - In the parables devoted to mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy. We know these parables well, three in particular: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the father with two sons (cf. Lk 15:1-32). In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when he pardons. In them we find the core of the Gospel and of our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love and bringing consolation through pardon.

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to 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. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

Easter Cards

The Easter cards are being distributed – if people can help with the few that are remaining it would be greatly appreciated. A sincere thank you to all who have delivered cards this far.

Date of Easter

Easter is the major moveable feast of the liturgical year. It may fall on any Sunday between March 22nd and April 23rd. The date of Easter accords with the date of the Jewish festival of the Passover which is based upon the old lunar calendar. By this method of calculation the date of Easter is the Sunday nearest the first full moon following the spring equinox. The spring season in which Easter occurs, with its renewal of life following winter, harmonises with Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Meaning of Triduum

“Triduum” comes from the Latin words (*tres* and *dies*) which mean ‘a space of three days’. But since we have four days with special names – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday – the ‘three’ may be confusing to some.

The confusion is cleared up when we understand how the days are reckoned. On high festival days the church counts a day in the same way as Jews count days and festivals; that is, from sundown to sundown. Thus, the Triduum consists of *three* twenty-four hour periods that stretch over four calendar days. Therefore, the Easter Triduum begins at sundown on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and concludes on Easter Sunday; its high point is the celebration of the Easter Vigil.



Sacrament of Reconciliation–Confession

When we examine our conscience prior to going to Confession, we usually ask ourselves, ‘What sins have I committed?’ We rarely look at our sins of omission, which may well be our worst sins. We may think we are good simply because we don't do anyone any harm, But what about the good we fail to do?

From a Christian point of view, there is only one real failure in life – the failure to love. If one's love is active, failure to reach perfection in other areas of one's life will be forgiven. But there is no substitute for active love.

The Lenten/Easter Reconciliation service takes place in **St. Colmcille's Swords on Monday 21st March at 7.30pm** and in **St. Finian's River Valley on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30pm**
There are also Confessions in St. Colmcille's on
Holy Thursday from 12noon to 1.00pm and after the 7.30pm
Mass

Good Friday from 10.00am to 11.30am

Holy Saturday from 12 noon to 1.00pm



The Bible's Most Important People

Cyrus – the King of Persia who commanded that the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt. He ordered all his people to give donations to help the Jews, and he returned the temple vessels that Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken. When oppressors objected to the work, the Jews reminded them of Cyrus's command, and the work went forward again. The prophet Daniel also lived and prospered during the early part of Cyrus's reign.

St. Vincent de Paul-Advocate Collection

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up after all Masses this weekend. This will be the Palm Sunday Advocate Collection aimed especially at providing a holiday in Sunshine House, Balbriggan for children

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group extends our best wishes for the Blessings and peace of Easter to all bereaved parishioners. Our next Support Group Meeting will be on Monday 11th April at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. You are most welcome.

There will be no meeting on Easter Monday 28th March.

Swords Bridge Club

Swords Bridge Club are holding a charity night in aid of Swords St Vincent De Paul on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Senior Citizens Centre, Swords