

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - Let them thank the Lord for his mercy



RCIA – Rite of Christian initiation of Adults

Three candidates (Iutina Amulia; Raven Amulia and Lucas Abidoeye) for the Easter sacraments are this Sunday going through the Rite of Acceptance into the order of catechumens. At this stage the candidates have the beginnings of the spiritual life and the fundamentals of Christian teaching have taken root. They are declaring their intention to the Church and the Church in turn, carrying out its apostolic mission, accepts them as persons who intend to become its members

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.

First Penance

This week is a special week for the girls and boys of our Parish Schools as they celebrate their First Penance. St. Colmcille's GNS will celebrate this Sacrament on Monday 6th February at 7.30pm and St. Colmcille's BNS will celebrate this Sacrament on Tuesday 7th February at 7.30pm. I thank the teachers for the preparatory work that they are undertaking and the parents for presenting their children for this Sacrament. It will two lovely evenings and a wonderful week in the life of our Parish in 2017.

Funeral Ministry Team

The Christian community since the earliest times has accompanied people through providing a ritual framework within which a funeral takes place. These rites are acts of public worship at which a number of elements are involved. God is praised; The Resurrection of Jesus is proclaimed; The Hope of being gathered together again in God's Kingdom; Prayers are offered for the soul of the deceased person; Their body is honoured; The bereaved are consoled.

The archdiocese has introduced a new Funeral Ministry document, which takes into account the changing reality of Irish society today. This fresh look considers the ageing population which can be concentrated in certain parishes or groupings. It looks to the future when the lay faithful will be more centrally involved in carrying out this ministry in our parishes. Our parish of Swords has taken this on board and has a new Funeral Ministry Team in its beginning stages. It is an exciting journey, please keep the team in your prayers and offer words of encouragement and support. *God is not the God of the dead but of the living; for in him all are alive.*

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **next** weekend at all Masses

Property and Finance Committee

This Committee will meet on Tuesday 7th February at 2.30pm

Parish Mass of healing and Anointing for the sick

February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is when the Church celebrates the 'World Day of the Sick'. On **Saturday 11th February at 11am** the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick in St. Colmcille's. All parishioners are welcome. It is an ideal opportunity to reach out to a housebound neighbour or a neighbour who has no means of transport and bring them to the church for this celebration.

'The World Day of the Sick' is a call once again to all, to see in the face of their brother or sister who is sick the face of Christ who, suffering, dying and rising, brought salvation to humanity.' *Blessed John Paul II* **There will be no 10.00am Mass this Saturday Morning**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We can easily see how Jesus should be the light of the world. Even though the words are familiar, we are perhaps unaccustomed to reflecting on ourselves as the light of the world and salt of the earth. This is an act of profound trust in us by God. Jesus has faith in us to be bearers of his Good News in our time. How are we to be that? Not first by our words or even by our deeds. We are the light and salt on account of who we are as disciples. As the Gospel text puts it, a city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. We cannot help being seen as his disciples, for that is who we are.

Prayer - Jesus, we believe that you are the light of the world and that you call us to bear your light to the world. Help us to be authentic disciples of yours, not drawing attention to ourselves, but to you, the source of our light and life. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Coping effectively with bereavement is a skill we can all learn. A team, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced share their experiences with you.

Next Coping Programme will commence on Wednesday 8th February 2017 for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com. www.beginningexperience.ie



Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 15th of February from 19:30 to 21:00 in B.A.S.E Brackenstown Road, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.