

Swords– St. Colmcille’s/Drynam – Our Lady of the Visitation

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(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)

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1st Sunday of Lent

Lent-radically baptismal

“When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory; I will grant him length of days”



Newsletter Sunday 9th March 2014

The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: **Baptism**. Preparation for Baptism and for renewing baptismal commitment lies at the heart of the season. Our challenge today is to renew our understanding of this important season of the Church year and to see how we can integrate our personal practices into this renewed perspective.

Why is Baptism so important in our Lenten understanding? Lent as a 40-day season developed in the fourth century from three merging sources. The first was the ancient paschal fast that began as a two-day observance before Easter but was gradually lengthened to 40 days. The second was the catechumenate as a process of preparation for Baptism, including an intense period of preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation to be celebrated at Easter. The third was the Order of Penitents, which was modeled on the catechumenate and sought a second conversion for those who had fallen back into serious sin after Baptism. As the catechumens (candidates for Baptism) entered their final period of preparation for Baptism, the penitents and the rest of the community accompanied them on their journey and prepared to renew their baptismal vows at Easter.

Lent, then, is radically baptismal.

What is the significances of the 40 weekdays before Easter?

The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan.

Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The seasons and days of penance in the course of the liturgical year (Lent, and each Friday in memory of the death of the Lord) are intense moments of the Church's penitential practice. These times are particularly appropriate for spiritual exercises, penitential liturgies and pilgrimages as signs of penance, voluntary self-denial such as fasting and almsgiving, and fraternal sharing (charitable and missionary works)." (CCC 1438)

When does Lent end?

Lent officially ends on Holy Thursday. That is when the "Triduum", great three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday occur leading to Easter. Easter is not only a day but an Octave (eight day) celebration leading to a Season of the Church, Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.

Giving something up

For a lot of us, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. This is usually things like chocolate; sweets; sugar in tea and so on. There was a father who urged his children to move beyond giving up sweets to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent he asked the children how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of his young sons had promised to give up fighting with his brothers and sisters during Lent. When his father asked him how it was going, the boy replied, "I'm doing pretty good, Dad—but boy, I can't wait until Easter!"

That response indicates that this boy had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up." Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not just to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ. *Fr. Michael Carey Adm*

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

Mon 8.00 am Paddy Barker	Sat 6.30pm Dec members of the Morton Family
Mon 10.00am Ellen Green	
Tues 8.00 am Robert Donovan	Sun 8.30am William & Bridget Donnelly
Tues 10.00 am Special Intention	Sun 10.00am Kevin Smith
Wed 8.00am Dec mem of Gillooly Family	Sun 11.30am Eileen Ennis
Wed 10.00am Pat, Ann & Mary Dunphy & dec family members	
Thurs 8.00am Patsy McAdam	Sun 7.30 Thomas McGrane
Thurs 10.00am Pat Dunne	Joe O'Grady MM
Fri 8.00am Special Intention	
Fri 10.00am Anthony & Mary Kelly	
Sat 10.00am Peggy Curran	

The Visitation of the BVM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

Today at 12:00 Mass, we will celebrate sending Amir and Rahim Nazarelli as candidates to the Rite of Election in the Pro Cathedral later this afternoon (3:30 PM) presided over by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. Following their election they will now prepare intensely to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist here in Drynam at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night.



Special Mass:

A special mass will be celebrated By Bishop Raymond Field, in St Colmcille's Church on Thursday 13th March at 7pm, in remembrance of Ms Olivia Clinton , teacher in St Colmcille's BNS, who died tragically in January. All are welcome.

My Burden Light

Religion should not make life burdensome.	Rather, he is calling us to life,
If Jesus placed any burden on us,	for to open our hearts is to begin to live
it was that of loving one another.	The only real failure in the life of a Christian
But in exhorting us to love one another,	Is the failure to love. <i>(Source: Flor McCarthy)</i>
he is not laying a burden on us.	

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."



Trocaire

In Ireland, Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around! The Trociare boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information with the theme for this year being water. Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.

Lent

Our word "Lent" comes from an old English word *lencten*, meaning to lengthen or to grow longer. These days, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, each day there are two minutes more light in the morning and two minutes more light in the evening. So, "Lent" really means springtime. This tells us precisely what is supposed to happen in this springtime of the faith: new shoots, spring growth, signs of life and joy. So, whatever I undertake this Lent, may it lead to a new springtime of faith for me and my community.

Notice Board's

Did you know that we have 3 notice boards (NB's) in St. Colmcille's. Unless properly maintained they will be a distraction. NB 1 is beside the confessional and the book of intentions. NB 2 is in the porch of the entrance door and NB 3 is on the way up to the gallery and is therefore visible only at the 11.30am Mass on Sundays. From here on NB 1 is only for Parish notices and NB 2 is for all other notices. NB 3 is an

amalgam of both. Stephanie has done a great job clearing and sorting out the notice boards. Can I please ask that any notices for any of the boards be left with Stephanie in the Sacristy.

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Tuesday 4th March to Wednesday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: No one lives alone, no one believes alone. God speaks his word to us and in speaking it calls us together, creates a community, his people, his Church. After the return of Jesus to his Father the Church is the sign of his presence in the world.... **St. Basil the Great, 5th century**

Ministers of the Eucharist-St. Colmcille's

All Ministers of the Eucharist in St. Colmcille's are invited to 75 minutes of prayer, practical considerations and light refreshments on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. I would really appreciate if you could make this gathering-it will also be used to arrange the Easter Timetable



St. Vincent de Paul

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

Reflection - First Sunday of Lent

The temptations in today's Gospel are not at all temptations to this or that sin but rather fundamental options which matter for the direction of life. Jesus was tempted in the course of his ministry to choose another way of being God's prophet, the Messiah or anointed. In a less spectacular way, we too can be attracted by choices which shape the way our life unfolds. We ask ourselves, what do I live on? What's my true goal? Where is my nourishment? The human, no less than the Kingdom, is more than food and drink. Only the Word of God truly nourishes and illuminates.

Prayer - Lord, in you we live and move and have our being and we thank you.

Help us to place you and your Word at the heart of all we do and, even more, at the core of who we are.

Evening Mass in River Valley

If you desire to go to Mass for Lent and the mornings don't suit, there is an evening Mass in St. Finian's River Valley at 7.30pm Monday to Friday for the season of Lent

Fundraising Committee. This group will meet on Tuesday 11th March at 10.45am in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

Ministers of the Eucharist

There is an evening of prayer and practical input for MoE, in **Clonliffe College** on **Thursday 20th March from 7.45pm to 9.45pm.** The cost will be borne by the Parish. If you'd like to go please in Colette in the Parish Office. Tel: 01-8407277

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Saoirse Holland, SaraJane Lowndes, Callum Rooney, Grace Kiernan,
Janie Malone, Beau McKay

SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina

Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday *Tues 3rd – Tues 10th June 2014, Adriatic Coast*

Chioggia is a quaint picturesque town on the Venetian lagoon about 25km south of Venice. It is in fact known as "Little Venice" because of its narrow streets, hump back canals and is completely unspoilt and full of character. A bridge leads to the neighbouring island of Sottomarina with its long sandy beaches bordering the Adriatic. This is where we will be based for the week

Price: €870.00 per person sharing

Price includes: Return flights Dublin-Venice 7 nights' accommodation : 4 star hotel; half board; B&B and Dinner., Day excursion to Venice by boat and day excursions to Ravenna and Padua

Extras: Single room supplement €25.00 per night for duration of stay Airport taxes: €85.00. baggage fee €40 Insurance: €36.00 (66+double premium applies)

. Please contact Colette at the Parish Office for booking (€250 deposit per person). Balance 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette: 8407277.

Brochures at back of Church