

The number of people who attend the weekend Masses in Swords can easily fit into three scheduled Masses, in fact they could fit into two! In reducing the number to three Masses I will be conscious of the timetabled Masses in Brackenstown and River Valley in terms of choice. The Parish Pastoral Council are currently working on deciding which Mass to drop. Obviously the 11.00am will stay as it has by far the biggest attendance, though when all is decided I might move this to 11.15am to allow enough time between the 10.00am in Drynam and 11.15am in Swords. Myself and Fr. Pat can carry the present five weekend Masses for a while but it will change in the coming months.

We all know that the Church in Ireland is changing and it is now changing rapidly before our very eyes. We should not be despondent. Living with and through change can be exciting and it is at the end of the day God's Church and his Holy Spirit is guiding and directing everything.

Fr. Peter McCarron

Fr. Peter has made many friends in both Drynam and River Valley and I am sure as his health improves that he will re-establish contact. At the moment no formal 'farewell' is being organised for said health reasons but please God in time...

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am George McDonnell	Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer (No Mass)
Mon 10.00am Joan Ennis	
Tues 8.00am Gerti Donoghue	Sat 6.30pm Frank King
Tues 10.00am	
Wed 8.00am Helen Brophy	Sun 8.30am Rose Geoghegan
Wed 10.00am Ultan & Ann McCabe	Sun 11.00am Declan Hanratty
Thurs 8.00am	Margaret Graham
Thurs 10.00am Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien	Sun 6.30pm Pauline Temple
	Betty Farrell (1st An)
Fri 8.00am Hilda Parker	
Fri 10.00am Charles & Noel Farrell	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

There will be a Drynam Pastoral Team Meeting on Tuesday 23rd January at 8:00PM.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Evelyn Caul	Seatown Terrace
Harry McKenna	Dublin Road
Eileen McKitterick	Whitehall
Lauren Rodgers	Melrose Park
Suzanne Higgins	Jugback Crescent



Lectio Divina

The group will resume on Tuesday 23rd January and meet every Tuesday in the Parochial House, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm, for anyone interested in developing scripture in their lives. *All welcome*



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277

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

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church in Swords – living with and through change

“O sing a new song to the Lord”

Newsletter Sunday 21st January 2018



As you know Fr. Peter McCarron has been off due to ill health these past few long months. The update is that he is making very good progress but on the advice and insistence of his medical team, Fr. Peter is to retire from Ministry and therefore he will not be returning to either minister or live in Drynam. Needless to say it is very sad and naturally we wish him all the best and all our prayers.

This development will have a significant impact in our Parish. Swords/Drynam now has one full time priest – myself! This indicates how lucky we are to have Fr. Pat Shiel and how valuable he is. As I have said time and time again, Fr. Pat is a fully and completely retired priest having served his long and fruitful ministry in the Archdiocese of Dublin and is fully entitled to enjoy his retirement and 'do nothing' in terms of priestly work. BUT thanks to his generosity of spirit he is fully involved in the Parish and is almost like a 'curate'.

The greater Swords conurbation is made up of three parishes: Brackenstown; River Valley and Swords/Drynam and we are a formal grouping of parishes working together in mission. Both Brackenstown and River Valley have two full time priests and Swords now has one. All three parishes have a very full schedule and assistance can be provided on an ad-hoc basis especially for the weekday masses but most certainly not on a Sunday.

This gives rise to the question as to whether I should petition the Archbishop for another priest – well they just aren't there! Also the Swords grouping has the youngest priest personnel in the Diocese and on that basis alone I think it would be unfair to deny other parishes and/or groupings where the need for a priest is greater. In short I won't ask where I expect the answer to be 'No' and 'no' for what I consider to be very justifiable and acceptable reasons. So where to from here?

Church of Our Lady of the Visitation - Drynam

The Drynam Pastoral Team has done sterling work in reopening their beloved Church and in light of Fr. Peter's departure they have graciously accepted a reduction in their Sunday Mass schedule to just one Mass at 10.00am. They previously had two and that is now just one. For the past while in Fr. Peter's absence the Capuchin Fathers' of Raheny have serviced this Sunday commitment. I thank them most sincerely and they can still be called upon from time to time. But it not appropriate on an ongoing basis. From the beginning of January, I have been saying (or Fr. Pat) the 10.00am Mass. It is time for their 'own' priest to be celebrating this Mass.

St. Colmille's - Swords

We currently have four weekend Masses and this will be reduced to **three**, thus giving a total of four weekend Masses between myself and Fr. Pat. This is very doable and will also take into account holidays; planned absences etc. Mind you if one of us should get sick, then I don't know!! But that is where we are at and that is the case for all other parishes in the Archdiocese. Illness and unexpected absences will really throw 'a spanner in the works'

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words...
Please... Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



An Archbishop Calls

I am delighted to welcome His Grace Archbishop Diarmuid Martin to our Parish this weekend where he will be conferring on Anne McDonagh her Papal Award as 'Dame Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great'. I will write a piece on how it all went in next weekend's newsletter.

After the Mass there will be light refreshments served in the school hall of **St. Colmcille's GNS**, to which all are invited. I thank the school and its Principal Ms. Karen Burke-Logue for providing this facility. I welcome Dame Anne McDonagh her husband Declan and all her family, loved ones, friends and colleagues to our Mass today

Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their second Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Do This in memory – 14th/15th January

Last Saturday's evening Vigil Mass in Swords was a joyous occasion. There was practically a full turn of the children and their families. The church was packed. The preparation that went into the Liturgy was evident – it was wonderful and I trust prayerful. The choir under the direction of Lily from St. Colmcille's GNS was excellent – well done girls. Thanks to one and all and we meet again for this special Mass on Saturday 10th February.

The 12.15pm Mass in Drynam held the 'Do This in Memory Mass' for the boys and girls attending Holywell Educate together. Again it was a joyous occasion with a practically a full turn of the children and their families. The preparation that went into the Liturgy was evident – it was wonderful and I trust prayerful. The choir under the direction of Renata was excellent. Thanks to one and all and we meet again for this special Mass on Sunday 11th February

Planned Giving - collection

Thank you to all who have collected their 2018 Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes boxes and thanks to those who delivered them. Most are now delivered but there are still a few boxes awaiting collection. Please can you collect them from the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Rd. If you are unable to collect your box, can you ring Colette and arrangements can be made for delivery. Thank You.

Have you flu symptoms

Those with flu symptoms are dispensed from their **Sunday** obligation to attend Mass. Those who are confined to home when ill can honour the Lord's Day by praying along with the Mass broadcast on parish webcams (from the Pro Cathedral via www.dublindiocese.ie) on **Sunday** Morning by RTE Radio on Long Wave 252 Khz. RTE1 television often broadcast Mass on **Sunday** mornings too.

Saturday Morning Prayer

By all accounts this went off to a flying start. Thanks to the team involved. On Saturday 27th January it will be week 3 of the Divine Office Prayer Book

Week of Christian Unity-2018

Every year from the 18th to the 25th January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme, is taken from the song of Moses and Miriam (Ex 15:1-21). It is a song of triumph and oppression. This year Christians from the Caribbean have prepared resources that relate to their experience of slavery, colonialism and liberation. The prayer cycle of the Week includes themes of human dignity, the modern day slavery of human trafficking, justice and family life among others.

To mark this week there will be an Ecumenical Liturgy of Prayer in St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown on Thursday 25th January at 8.00pm. All are welcome

A date for your Diary

On Saturday 10th February the Parish will celebrate a Mass of healing and Anointing for the sick at 11.00am

Meditation in the Christian tradition taking place in the Emmaus Retreat Centre, on Saturday the 3rd of February, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. €60, including 3 course lunch. Further information, contact Marion Burke 087 970 3640

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment application forms for girls starting school in September 2018 are available from the school, completed forms to be returned before the end of January **Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms**

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2018 are available from the school, 9.00am –4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st **Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms**



World Meeting of Families (WMOF) – refection

Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth. (*Francis, Laudato SI', 92*)

Quote from 'Love one another as I have loved you' by Fr. Gareth Byrne.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we begin to read from the gospel of Mark and this will continue until the end of November apart from Lent and Eastertide. Mark is the shortest gospel and considered by most to be the first one. The passages are selected from the gospel of Mark in the order in which they occur so that come November we shall have worked our way through Mark. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)