

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

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HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

4th Sunday of Lent

Do not be Christians with sour faces

“Rejoice, Jerusalem, all you who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast”

Newsletter Sunday 30th March 2014



At a special Mass to mark the first anniversary of Pope Francis, the Archbishop preached a homily, an extract of which is as follows: We gather one year after that day on which Pope Francis solemnly inaugurated his mission as Bishop of Rome and Shepherd of the Universal Church, on the Feast of Saint Joseph 2013.

It has been an exciting year and as anyone who has begun to understand Pope Francis can imagine, there are certainly more surprises to come. Pope Francis has struck a chord in people hearts right around the world. Yet he has remained himself. His fame and popularity are not due to any polished public relations operation. He has remained himself and he has been very firm in not allowing anyone else to tell him how he should act as a Pope. As Pope he continues to be a priest: he celebrates Mass and preaches daily, he hears confessions, he visits parishes in his own diocese and each morning at Mass he receives representatives of a different Roman Parish.

According to many, Pope Francis is a superstar; but he has clearly said that he does not like that. Recently he said: "To depict the pope as a sort of superman, a sort of star, seems offensive to me. The pope is a man who laughs, cries, sleeps tranquilly and has friends like everyone else, a normal person." He wants to remain himself, a human being and a priest, who is driven in all his activity not by public relations gestures or seeking popularity, but by responding authentically to the Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*, as his recent Apostolic Exhortation is entitled. The Pope’s mission is driven by the message of the Gospel and by the joy that that message brings to him and which he wishes to share with others.

The success of Pope Francis will not be the fruit of his public opinion ratings or of a process of reforms which he initiates and on which we, from our safe and secure positions, pass judgement as to how they fit with our own positions.

The success of Pope Francis’ agenda depends on us, the missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, and how far we are willing to make his agenda truly and uncomfortably our own and bring it into the life the world around us, in family, at work, in society, in politics, in the fight to defend the poor, the exploited and the marginalized. Pope Francis likes the term “missionary disciples”. That is what we are all called to be: priests, religious and lay men and women alike. Pope Francis wants us to be focused not on him but on Jesus Christ, who is the source of that joy which comes from the Gospel. Our challenge then is to know the Gospel and to live it as joy. This does not mean that we ignore the sufferings and anguish that exist in the world; or the suffering and the anguish which has been caused within the Church; or the suffering and the anguish of those who are troubled and find the Gospel difficult and who feel that they fail. The joy which comes from the Gospel is a joy which should enable us to be more sensitive to the suffering and the anguish of others, by reaching out to them and inviting them to come closer to Jesus, by attracting them to the message of the Gospel, by showing them that Jesus loves us in a special way when we fail. Somehow, once elected the Spirit gave him a new lease of life, a new energy and rather than become bowed down by the burden of his new office – he has allowed the Joy of living and proclaiming the Gospel to transform him and give him new energy. The Church needs renewal and that renewal will only be one which is marked by the joy of the Gospel. Pope Francis does not want Christians with sour faces.

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00 am Michael, Bridie & Francis Layden

Sat 6.30pm Phyllis Duffy

Mon 10.00am Peter Vecchio

Sun 8.30am David McDonnell

Tues 8.00 Special intention

Sun 10.00am Mary Stafford

Tues 10.00am Special Intention

Wed 8.00am Vera Dowling

Sun 11.30am Dr Frank McCarthy

Wed 10.00am JC Savage

Josie Brangan MM

Thurs 8.00am Danny Webb

Sun 7.30 Tom Noctor

Thurs 10.00am Dr Frank McCarthy

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

Sat 10.00am Jim Maguire



Church of the Visitation Drynam

The Visitation of the BVM

Mass will be broadcast on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta from here, Church of Our lady of the Visitation, Drynam at 11:00 AM on Sunday 6th April.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

How we respond to pressure can vary very much from person to person. In John's Gospel, there are two related stories of men being healed, one in chapter 5 and the other in chapter 9, today's reading. The man at the pool eventually betrays Jesus. The man born blind resists pressure and even grows on the strength of it. Part of his energy comes from his experience – no matter what others may say about Jesus, he himself once was blind and now he sees! His courageous attachment to what he knows from his personal encounter with Jesus leads eventually to a full act of faith.

Prayer - Faithful God, you call us to be faithful even in times of trial. Teach us to embrace the challenge of faith today, that we may have the courage to grow and give courage to others by our witness.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road .Next Meeting 31st March. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God."



Mothers Day Prayer

May the blessing of the Divine
Be an especially bright benediction
Upon mothers everywhere
On your blessed day
On Mother's Day!

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

Easter Triduum

We are rapidly approaching the Triduum – the highlight of the year. The liturgies involve a lot of participation by the different Ministry Groups. If you are around the weekend of April 20th, please volunteer or accept the invitation to participate. Holy Thursday involves the washing of feet. Very few like 'to do' this but it is a powerful statement – why not offer? You can give your name to myself; Fr. Peter (Drynam); Colette or Stephanie. It would make for a nice gift to the Lord at Easter!!

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.

Holiday

There are still a number of places available for our Parish Holiday. As I said it's a lovely and safe way of travelling for anyone who hasn't holidayed anywhere in a while and we are going to a lovely part of Italy. The hotel has a swimming pool and a private beach. See box in newsletter

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: Wherever there is love, there is trinity: a lover, a beloved, and a fountain of love. St. Augustine 354-430

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lent is a Penitential Season and therefore the Sacrament of Penance is very much part of it. A reminder of Confession times will not go amiss.

St. Colmcille's –Saturday morning from 10.30am to 11.30am and Saturday evening from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

Drynam: - Mon; Tues; Wed and Fri after the 9.20am Mass
Details of Holy Week Penitential Services to follow late

Ministers of the Word – St. Colmcille's

All Ministers of the Word in St. Colmcille's are invited to 75 minutes of prayer, practical considerations and light refreshments on Wednesday 2nd April 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



Living the Paschal Mystery

Worship, is far more than attendance and involvement in ritual acts, as important as that is. Worship includes a mission to reach out to others who are need of spiritual insight, a deepened faith, or healing in any way. Authentic worship always requires a response of charity on behalf of others. Authentic worship includes an encounter with the One who gives us sight, but then it must lead us to reach out to others with a healing hand, bringing them to see and believe too.

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.

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

A blessing and prayer tribute to all mothers

"Blessed be all mothers
Who have come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable one and all, you are.
Susan Kramer

