

Vincent showed us *how* to give....He gave himself, his company, his caring. If someone needed a coat, he took off his and gave it. He asked people to give with their whole hearts, and not just to give things they wouldn't use themselves, for what was the sacrifice in that?

Vincent was very much an ordinary man. He saw no visions, performed no miracles, changed nothing but himself. The boy who vowed he would never be poor became the man who chose his home in the midst of the poor. (Source: *From Saints of the Seasons for Children* by Ethel Pochocki)

If this work and ministry interests you, then talk to the Conference members as they carry out the monthly Church Gate Collections.

Prayer: God of mercy and love, to help the poor and train the clergy you blessed the presbyter Saint Vincent de Paul with apostolic virtues. Answer our prayer so that with similar fervour we may love what he loved and live by what he taught. This we ask of you.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Alphonsus Lamb Servant of God	Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer (No Mass)
Mon 10.00am Ann Barry	
Tues 8.00am Peggy Hiney	Sat 6.30pm Patrick O'Rourke & Anna & Eileen O'Rourke
Tues 10.00am George Reid	Peggy Ferris (1st An)
Wed 8.00am	Theresa McEntagart (1st An)
Wed 10.00am	Frank Markey (MM)
Thurs 8.00am	
Thurs 10.00am	Sun 8.30am Bartle McDonnell
Fri 8.00am	Sun 11.00pm John Bateman
Fri 10.00am	Ann Barry (MM)
	Sun 6.30pm Jacinta Hamill (An)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

We would like to thank all who helped over the Christmas period including preparing the church, flowers, beautiful crib etc; and all the faithful who continue to support us.

World Meeting of Families (WMOF) – refectio

Love is experienced and nurtured in the daily life of couples and their children. (*Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 90*)

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

Open Morning – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Morning will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Monday 15th January from 9am – 10.45 am. All welcome.

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

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948.

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Charity - People should take care of each other, as they see the need

“All the earth shall bow down before you, O God”

Newsletter Sunday 14th January 2018

As I look back on the celebration of the Christmas Season in our Parish many thoughts and observations come to mind, as I am sure they do for you as well. In this newsletter I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the work of our own local Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul in Swords and Drynam.

We all know about the special annual collection which they organise every year but they do so much more. In the month of December, the Parochial House was a hive of activity. Swords Conference took a downstairs room and Drynam Conference took an upstairs room.

In those few weeks these rooms became full of food and toys which had to be organised into parcels for the many families to which they were distributed. Then the members assisted by family and friends loaded these parcels into cars and vans and delivered them to their clients. So a big THANK YOU to one and all. And the rooms are tidied and back to their pristine condition! So who is this Vincent de Paul under whose inspiration this ministry is carried out.

Vincent came to know Paris first as a young priest on horseback, discovering every abandoned child, every beggar or convict who needed help. Then, when he could no longer ride, he walked and poked about with a cane. He loved every inch of his city. He became the priest of a small church to which fishermen farmers and labourers came...

He sometimes tried the patience of those who worked with him, for he was not a naturally good-humoured man. He was impatient and quick tempered and, “but for divine grace,” he admitted, “I would have been in temper hard and repellent, rough and crabbed.” He was short and squat, with a broad jaw and short beard. His dark brown eyes shone from under black brows that were heavy as an awning.....

Sometimes he was slow in making a decision. He always wanted to be sure that what he wanted to do was the will of God. He would not be pushed. “Do not tread on the heels of Providence, who is our guide,” he would say. But once he made up his mind that something was God's will, he couldn't be stopped from putting his thoughts into action.

Vincent's idea of charity was that people should take care of each other, as they saw the need. He didn't believe in leaving it to a government or charity far away. **He did believe that the parish should be the centre of our lives, not just on Sunday but every moment; that way we would remember that we are all members of a single family and children of the same heavenly Father.**

He gave whatever he had to anyone, without worrying whether it was going to the “right” people. They were all the “right” people. Slaves, orphans, the rejected and despised-all were in his care. “In the poor man,” he said, “I do not notice his rough outside, his coarseness...., but I look at the reverse.... I see nothing save the Son of God, poor by his own choice.”



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

By now most of you will have heard the terrific news that the Archbishop will be celebrating the **11.00am Mass** in Swords on **Sunday 21st January**. He is doing this with the express intention of conferring on Anne McDonagh her Papal Award as 'Dame Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great'. It will no doubt be a splendid occasion and I, the choir and the parish are looking forward to it. After the Mass there will be light refreshments served in the Parochial House to which all are invited.

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass (and the 12.15pm Mass in Drynam) 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.

Planned Giving Boxes – delivery

Thank you to all who have collected their 2018 Planned Giving/Family Offering. We have about 40 boxes left for delivery. The main roads/areas of the Parish where boxes are to be delivered are as follows: Carlton Ct (8 boxes); Glen Ellen (5 boxes); Watery Lane (6 boxes); Ashley Ave (14 boxes), along with one or two boxes in Dublin Rd; Estuary Rd; Seatown Ter; Longlands; Oaklands and Highfields.

If parishioners could deliver these boxes over the next week I would greatly appreciate it. They can be collected from Colette in the Parish Office.

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.

Ministry Teams

Our Parish is blessed with dedicated and loyal staff; we have a wonderful and vibrant Parish. It is by God's grace that we have so many committed parishioners who have built this Parish to what it is today – a lively Christian Community. The volunteer spirit is strong here and the different ministries are very active. **There is always room for new volunteers and membership of the different Ministry Teams.** I encourage you to take up this invite if you are in a position to so do. Being a parishioner gives each of us an opportunity to nourish our faith, live it out in community and pass it on to a new generation.

FINANCE

As we begin 2018, may I take this opportunity of reminding you of how the various Church collections are managed:

PLANNED GIVING/ENVELOPE COLLECTION: This is the main source of income for our Parish, and the only money retained by the parish. It covers all administration and general expenses. It pays for Church, Parochial House and Graveyard maintenance, heat and light, cleaning, repairs, insurance etc. The envelopes for this year are now available for collection in the Parish Office, Seatown Rd. If you do not have one of these boxes, I invite you to collect one or alternatively to set up a standing order.

FIRST COLLECTION: This collection pays our priests, and helps supports the priests of the Diocese, including those who are retired or sick.

SECOND COLLECTION: This collection helps maintain and build the poorer parishes in the Diocese and also goes towards the administration within the Dublin Diocese.

THANK YOU: I thank you most sincerely to your continued very generous contributions to your priests; parish and diocese.

CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE €2 OR €3 A WEEK? THAT'S ALL!

It would make a great contribution to the overall Parish finances as we want to continue to provide a warm comfortable venue for the many social and family events which we share with you – Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings, Anniversaries and funerals. Even if you do not attend our Church on a regular basis we would really appreciate your support. In any event we would like to assure you that whenever you need our support we will always be there for you.

If you would like to make a regular contribution to the Parish Funds for ongoing costs of the Parish, we would ask you to contact the Parish Office to obtain a box of envelopes or Bankers Order/Pledge Form.

Anam Cara North Dublin, an organisation that supports bereaved parents, will hold its next monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 17th of January from 7.30pm-9:00pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin. Anam Cara North Dublin offers a safe and comfortable setting where you can 'drop the mask' and be yourself among people who understand. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether this was recent or not.

On day Conference of Mary will take place on Saturday January 20th in DCU All Hallows Campus, Drumcondra, from 9.30am - 5.00pm. Cost is €20 (light lunch included) Contact Liam 086 68888918 or Mary 087 2256833. Mass and confession will be available afterwards