

If you were not a part of the pilgrimage **you can still make this your prayer.** It can be a prayer for all of us every time we enter a church – you have to pass through a door after all! It can be a prayer when we make a resolution to change a habit, or a way of life, which is in effect doing something for the Lord. It can be a prayer for the strengthening of our faith and so on....

As a Parish and as a Swords grouping of parishes, we celebrated well the Year of Mercy. We had the pilgrimage walks in the summer, around the time of the Feast of St. Colmcille. The Christmas and Easter penance liturgies reflected the theme well and of course loads of newsletters on the topic! Mercy naturally enough does not stop with the conclusion of the Year of Mercy for Mercy is the quality of care for another, willingness to make an effort, even at great sacrifice, to ease another's pain, readiness to forgive, eagerness to help.

***Mercy is the balm that reaches everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst***

*Fr Michael Carey*

### **Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon** 8.00am May Maxwell **Sat** 10.00am Peter & Thomas Green

**Mon** 10.00pm Dec members of Legion of Mary

**Tues** 8.00am Special intention

**Tues** 10.00am Christopher Kenny

**Sat** 6.30pm Barbara Kiely

**Wed** 8.00 William Daly

**Wed** 10.00 Holy Souls

**Sun** 8.30am Theresa & Peter Cantwell

**Thurs** 8.00am Ger Ryan

Agnes & James McNally

**Thurs** 10.00am Ann Cronin

**Sun** 11.00am Morty Doyle

**Fri** 8.00am Jerry Ryan

**Fri** 10.00am Martina Phillips

**Sun** 6.30pm Ellen Finnegan

Peter Higgins(1st An)

Margaret Pawley

### **Church of the Visitation Drynam    *The Visitation of the BVM***

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am**

There will be a further Drynam Church Fundraising Committee meeting tomorrow Monday 21st November at 8pm in the hall.

### **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

On the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, today, we celebrate the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 at the close of the Jubilee Year. Jesus was questioned at his trial: are you a king? His answer serves to highlight how different his kingship is from that of human rulers.

**Reflection** - For Luke what was written over the cross of Jesus was a statement of fact.

This is the King of the Jews. An indication of the values which underlie his kingdom is got from the events surrounding the scene. Jesus bears with mockery and abuse, accepts the questioning of the Jewish leaders, the soldiers and a criminal beside him and dies forgiving his enemies. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

**1916 Exhibition in the Pro Cathedral:** Ministry, Advocacy and Compassion which examines the role of the Catholic Church in 1916 continues from 1.30-5.30pm daily at St. Kevin's Chapel, Pro-Cathedral. Admission is free. To arrange a group booking, please contact the Pro-Cathedral parish office at (01) 874 5441 / Email: procath@dublindiocese.ie See more at: <http://www.dublindiocese.ie/1916-exhibition-in-the-pro-cathedral>

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948, 087 1621662**

**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**

Feast of Christ the King

## **The Conclusion of the Year of Mercy**

“To him belong glory and power for ever and ever”

Newsletter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Today's Feast day marks the formal end of the Year of Mercy. The Holy Door(s) in Rome close this Sunday. In Dublin they closed last Sunday. As a parish we marked the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy by visiting and entering the Holy Doors of Mercy in our city. We did it last Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November and it was a wonderful occasion. We were a group of about 150 parishioners from Brackenstown; Donabate; River Valley and Swords. As we entered the Holy Doors of Gardiner St.Church, Sean McDermott St. Church and the Pro-Cathedral, we did so bearing in mind the words of Pope Francis who wanted people to approach the experience of crossing the threshold, “with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy.” As well as my own intentions in crossing the thresholds I also had the intentions of Swords and Drynam Parishioners in my heart – ‘Gather all of these people and situations in your heart and carry them with you to the Door of Mercy’.

It is worth reflecting, as the Year of Mercy closes what the Pope had in mind. It can be summarised best in the second paragraph of his encyclical ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ – ‘We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Our salvation depends on it. Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness’.

The group who gathered for the pilgrimage to Dublin's Holy Doors prayed the following before crossing the threshold:

**A door in everyday life has several functions, all repeated by the symbol of the Holy Door:**

Jesus said: “I am the gate” (Jn 10:7). There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus, the one and absolute way to salvation. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth: “This is the Lord's own gate: where the just may enter” (Ps 117:20).

The Holy Door reminds the faithful of their responsibility when crossing the threshold:

- **It is a decision which implies the freedom to choose, and at the same time the courage to abandon something,** to leave something behind (cf. Mt 13, 44-46)

**Passing through this door means professing that Jesus Christ is Lord,** in strengthening our faith in Him to embrace the new life He has given us. “Open wide the doors to Christ”.



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

### Pilgrimage walk

As a parish we marked the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy by visiting and entering the Holy Doors of Mercy in our city. We did it last Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November and it was a wonderful occasion. We were a group of about 150 parishioners from Brackenstown; Donabate; River Valley and Swords. The day itself was glorious – blue sky with some cloud cover and a nice temperature. We started at 1pm and finished in the Pro-Cathedral at about 3.00pm and after the prayer we were able to visit the 1916 exhibition in St. Kevin's Oratory. Sean McDermott St. Church normally closes at 1pm but Sr. Maria Lawless D.C. (the Parish Sister) kindly kept the church open for us. Not only that but a local historian Terry Fagan gave us a wonderful synopsis of the life of Ven. Matt Talbot (1856-1925). I thank them both and Fr. Paul Thornton for preparing the beautiful prayer leaflet which also makes for a lovely souvenir of the day. As well as my own intentions in crossing the thresholds I also had the intentions of Swords and Drynam Parishioners in my heart – ‘Gather all of these people and situations in your heart and carry them with you to the Door of Mercy’. Thank you to all who took part in what was a wonderful way to bring the Year of Mercy to a conclusion.

### Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to 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. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses. I also welcome the boys and girls from Holy Well Educate Together to the 12noon Mass at Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam



### November – Reflection

We seem to give them back to you, O God, who gave them to us. Yet as you did not lose them in the giving, so we do not lose them by their return.

Not as the world gives, do you give, O lover of souls.

What you give, you do not take away, for what is yours is also ours, if we are yours.

And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing else save the limit of our sight.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly;

draw us closer to yourself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with you.

And while you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where you are we may be also for evermore. Amen



***We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in you embrace O Lord***

### Christmas Draw

Early in the New Year it is the intention of the Property and Finance Committee to seek tenders for the re-decoration of the Church. Once the tender process is completed the aim to commence the re-decoration in the Spring.

With this in mind St. Colmcille's is having a Christmas draw this year and as usual the Pariah Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize €1000**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize €500**

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €1 each and a book of 6 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 19/20<sup>th</sup> November, 26.27 November & 3/4<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office on Seatown Road.

This is a new venture and the PPC would really appreciate your help to make it a success. It is also hoped that this will become an annual event.

Tickets will be on sale in some supermarkets in the town so **if anybody would like to volunteer to sell tickets at these venues** we would love to hear from you. You can contact Colette at 8407277 or leave your name in the Sacristy.

**To summarise: Draw on 4<sup>th</sup> December • The cost of a ticket is €1 or 6 for €5 • Good Prizes • Please Help**



### The Bible's Most Important People

**Moses** – The Old Testament prophet through whom God gave Israel the law. Because Pharaoh commanded that all male newborn Israelites should be killed, Moses' mother placed him in a basket in the Nile river. There he was found by an Egyptian princess, who raised him. Grown, Moses killed a man for abusing and Israelite slave and fled to Midian, where he met God in a burning bush. The Lord sent Moses back to Egypt, where his brother Aaron became his spokesman. As God's prophet in Egypt, Moses confronted Pharaoh, telling him to let God's people go.

### Altar List of the Dead

If you have not completed one, there are some available at the back of the Church. They were not delivered to every house in the Parish, so if you have a housebound neighbour who you believe would like to complete one please drop in an envelope and arrange for collection and delivery to the Sacristy. These lists are now available at the back of the Church. If you can help with the distribution it would be much appreciated. The new lists are now in front of the altar. All Masses on the First Friday of the month will be offered for the names on the Altar List of the Dead

Drop in Meditation every Monday in Emmaus retreat centre at 11am. Further information from Emmaus: 8700050.