

Swords - St. Colmcille's / Dynam - Our Lady of the Visitation

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

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

*(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)*Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 *(Mon - Sat 9.30am-10.30am)*Website: [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)Faith as Witness*"Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed"***Newsletter Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

The way we live our lives tells us something of who our God is and what our faith means to us. The way we are in the world is an expression of our values, of what we believe in. It is a living out of our faith. 'You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world' (Mt 5:13a, 14). In choosing to live out of our faith we are choosing to be 'the light of the world' for others. To witness to our faith is to begin to express in action what we read in the Gospels. We can bear witness to our faith in many ways by living out the Gospel message – visiting the sick, supporting agencies such as Trócaire, and reaching out to those on the fringes of our community. **But what does witness really mean?**

• **W** – worship

At the heart of worship is a meeting place with God, a God who cares for us as a mother cares for her children (cf. Is 49:15). Through worship we grow in relationship with God and with one another. Our worship, especially at Eucharist, speaks to the reality of people's daily lives, the highs and the lows, the ordinary times and the times for celebration. It constantly refreshes our understanding of God's love for us and his invitation to 'do this in memory' is an invitation to live life as Jesus did, continuously reconnecting with the source of life – God.

• **I** – impact

It is sometimes hard to really feel the impact of our faith witness. We are used to pressing buttons to get exactly what we have ordered – a movie, a takeaway, a new jacket. Faith is different. As it grows within us, the impact becomes more obvious. However, we can still become frustrated at the pace. We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something and do it very well. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not of our own.

• **T** – together

Consider the shape of the cross, one axis leads us to God and the other axis connects us to one another. Faith is about togetherness and relationship. Our faith calls us to connect with God and with one another. Not just the people we like, but all around us. We are called to live out of a sense of the dignity of every human being, without exception. In bearing witness to our faith we must listen clearly to what Jesus has to say about others. In the new commandment there is no space to 'select' who is to be included. Jesus talks about real togetherness: 'So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.' (Jn 13:34-35)

• **N** – now We cannot press snooze on the faith button! Living out our faith is not something we can postpone. Jesus said 'I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest' (Jn 10:10), not tomorrow, or next week, but NOW. Jesus wants us to experience life in the fullness of his love.

• **E** – empathy

Each person is born in the image and likeness of God, with innate dignity. How we listen to people can be a witness of our faith. Do we judge people based on where they are from, who they are, their image? Empathy is a way to listen without prejudice, realizing a person's worth. Empathy is not about pity, but real understanding. 'So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets' (Mt 7:12).

• **S** – service

Each of us has gifts and talents. How we use our gifts and talents can give expression to our faith. 'As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace' (1 Pt 4:10). Our

giftedness is a grace from God, a grace we can only fully appreciate in the service of others. Not using our gifts to their full potential is similar to receiving a gift and not opening the wrapping. 'Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house' (Mt 5:15 ).

• **S** – solidarity

1 Corinthians 12:26-27 says, 'If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.' In standing with those who face poverty and injustice we are bearing witness to our faith. To fulfil our baptismal promises we must strive for a just world where everyone can live lives of dignity, potential and hope. (Source: Education Secretariat-CSW 2014)

*Fr. Michael Carey Adm*

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

**Mon** 8.00 am Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien

**Sat 6.30pm** Nick Bates

**Mon** 10.00am Charles & Noel Farrell

Des Becton (MM)

**Tues** 8.00 am Ultan & Anne McCabe

**Sun 8.30am** Mary O'Dwyer

**Tues** 10.00 am Des Becton

**Sun 10.00am** Imelda McNeill

**Wed** 8.00am Dec mem Gillooly Family

**Sun 11.30am** John Bateman

**Wed** 10.00am Catherine Hoare

**Sun 7.30pm** Nancy Doyle & Alice O'Rourke

**Thurs** 8.00am Matthew Udaya

Maura Rock

**Thurs** 10.00am William Clancy

**Fri** 8.00am Billy Goggin

**Fri** 10.00am Rose Geoghan

**Sat** 10.00am Mick Maguire

*The Visitation of the BVM*

**Church of the Visitation Drynam**

Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Fr Peter will bless candles at 10:00 and 12:00 Masses. Please bring along a candle if you wish it to be blessed in accordance with the tradition of this Feast Day.



**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Olivia Dunne nee Clinton**

**Teacher, St Colmcille's BNS**



**ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN**

Antiphon - "O Sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place"

**St. Colmcille's BNS**

Last Thursday the entire school community celebrated a Mass in the Church for the happy repose of the soul of its teacher Ms. Clinton who died tragically last week. I hope that the Mass brought a measure of comfort and consolation to her teacher colleagues and the pupils. It was a prayerful liturgy and the boys were magnificent

**Catholic Schools Week (CSW)**

This Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January begins Catholic Schools Week. It coincides with the Do This in Memory programme and therefore emphasises the wonderful work that our Parish Schools do in preparing your children for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. CSW is an All-Ireland event celebrated in all Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools. The purpose of the week is to highlight and celebrate the wonderful contribution that Catholic Schools make to our local communities and society in general, This year's theme is 'CATHOLIC SCHOOLS –Places of Faith and Learning'. During the coming week, we invite you to join us in celebrating the contribution that our Catholic schools make to the life of the faith community here in our parish.

### **DO THIS IN MEMORY**

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday 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.

### **A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE**

To read Sacred Scripture means to turn to Christ for advice....St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

### **Liturgical Calander**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February – St. Brigid**, Abbess and Secondary Patron of Ireland (c.454-524). The St. Brigid's Cross is a popular sign of God's protection.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – The Presentation of the Lord** – On this Feast Day candles are blessed and if you would like blessed candles please leave them in the Sacristies of St. Colmcille's or The Church of the Visitation of the BVM, Drynam, during this coming week or bring them along to the Mass

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – St. Blaise** – Patron of sore throats and sick cattle. Throats will be blessed after Mass on this day

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

**Lucy-Anne Conalty, Callum Byrne,**



### **Bethany Bereavement Support Group**

. 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 27<sup>th</sup> January. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

## **SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina**

**Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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: €795.00 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 (€150 deposit per person). Balance of €100 by the end of January and remainder 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette:

8407277.

Brochures at back of Church

## **Baptism in Japan**

Pope Francis at a recent Papal Audience, during the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, told the following interesting story recalling the history of the Christian community in Japan, whose persecution at the beginning of the 17th century caused many martyrs. "Members of the clergy were expelled and thousands of faithful were killed. There was no priest left in Japan; all of them were expelled. The community retreated into hiding, keeping their faith and prayer hidden. When a child was born, the mother or father baptized them, since all the faithful can baptize under particular circumstances. When, after two and a half centuries, 250 years later, the missionaries returned to Japan, thousands of Christians came out of hiding and the Church could flourish. They had survived through the grace of their Baptism! This is great: the People of God pass on the faith, baptizing their children and carrying on. They had maintained, even in secret, a strong communal spirit because Baptism had made them to become one body in Christ. They were isolated and hidden but were always members of the People of God, members of the Church. We can learn so much from this story!"

## **Enrolment for St Colmcille's Girls & Boys Schools**

### **Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School**

Enrolment for girls starting school in September 2014 takes place from January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 9am – 10.30am each morning. **Baptismal & Birth Certificates must accompany all forms**

### **Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.**

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2014 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31<sup>st</sup>. **Baptismal & Birth Certificates must accompany all forms**



## **Swords Senior Citizens Centre Chapel Lane Swords. 8407589**

Music Recital, presented by Alice Hurley on: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm. **Admission Free – All over 55's welcome**

