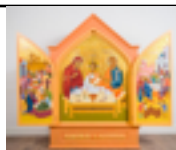


ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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



Gifts for Advent

The gift God offers this first week of Advent is the invitation to explore your inner longings. The Church, through our Advent customs, and even the weather of the season itself support such inner work. During the first week of Advent, give yourself time and space to contemplate what you are truly longing for in life. Know that this is the season when your longings will lead you to the Christ Child, in whom the hopes and fears of all the years are known and responded to with generous love.

• Christmas Draw 2017-last chance to buy tickets

St. Colmcille's is having its 2nd Christmas draw this year and as usual the Parish Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 3rd December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road. **1st Prize €1000 2nd Prize €300**

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €2 each and a book of 3 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 18/19th November, 25th/26th November & **2nd/3rd December**. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy.

To summarise:

- **Draw on 3rd December**• **The cost of a ticket is €2 or 3 for €5**
- **Good Prizes**• **Please Help**

• First Sunday of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent, beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is an invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

Prayer - Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person each day of our lives (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

• Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 8th December

We celebrate Mary, who, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows: **St. Colmcille's:** Thursday 7th December (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Friday 8th December 8.00am and 10.00am

• Painting of Church

Thankfully after a period of disruption the Church is back in full use again. We want to thank the Parishioners for their understanding and co-operation during this period. However, the general consensus is that the disruption was well worthwhile as the new colour scheme has been very well received. We want to thank Tom Dempsey & Sons for their excellent work. We particularly want to thank Darren for his general work plus the ceiling stencilling (His suggestion and design) and the marbling of the pillars. His contribution to the selection of colours and the overall project was invaluable. *Pat Lynch, Chairperson Finance Committee*



• Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place next weekend Sat/Sun **December 9th/10th**. It will be the second collection replacing Share.

Members of the local Conference will speak at all Masses and will address the issue of the spiralling number of families in our Parish who are finding themselves on the 'breadline'. The Conference depends on your generosity to meet requests for assistance for these families. We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year.

Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)

• Advent Wreath-week 1

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

1st CANDLE – (purple) - THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE

We speak of hope – because God keeps his promises to us.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of Old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen

• Vocations Ireland – Net Team

Hello, we are the Vocations Ireland NET Team! NET (National Evangelisation Teams) started in the USA, but is now all over the world. NET Ireland is based in Donegal and this year there are six teams working throughout Ireland. Our team very excited to be working in Brackenstown, Swords, Rivervalley Parish Grouping until about mid-December. During this time we will be doing confirmation classes and day retreats that will include games, music, drama, and will create a space for an encounter with Jesus through faith sharing and prayer time. We will also be starting youth events to integrate the young people into parish life. Our team is from all over the world: René and Rachel are Americans, Vanessa and Connor are Canadians, Alex is a Scotsman, and Pierce is from Donegal. We are very excited to be working with St. Colmcille's! Please keep our team and our ministry in your prayers. God bless! Thank You. *René – Team member*

• Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

Swords Crime Prevention Night:

Organised by Glen Ellan and Sandford Wood Residents Association. and run by Swords Gardai highlighting ways to secure your home, mark your property against theft and general crime prevention advice with Q&A session. Open to all Swords residents on Tues Dec 5th 7.30-8.30pm Applewood C.C (upstairs)

