

In the Sacrament of Baptism, we become sharers in Christ's death and Resurrection, and begin with him the joyful and exulting adventure of his disciples. The Liturgy of Baptism presents it as an experience of light. In fact, in giving to each newly baptised the candle lit from the Easter candle, the Church says: "Receive the light of Christ!". It is the role of Baptism to illumine us who have been baptised with the light of Christ, to open our eyes to Christ's splendour and to see and experience the mystery of God through the divine light of faith.

*Fr. Michael Carey*

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

**Mon** 8.00am Michael Ward

**Mon** 10.00am Elizabeth Markey

**Tues** 8.00am Seamus McCabe

**Tues** 10.00 Special intention

**Wed** 8.00am Bridget Staunton

**Wed** 10.00 Special Intention

**Thurs** 8.00am Gerry Ryan

**Thurs** 10.00am Fr Pat Galvin

**Fri** 8.00am Nora O'Dea

**Fri** 10.00am Lily Markey

**Sat** 10.00am Peter Harford

**Sat** 6.30pm Peter O'Gorman

Elizabeth Flynn

**Sun** 8.30am Kitty & Henry Dawson

**Sun** 11.00am Thomas, Brian & Ethel O'Connor

**Sun** 6.30pm Maureen Meade

#### **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**

Fr. Peter and the team would like to thank all who helped over the Christmas period including delivering cards; preparing the church, flowers, Christmas tree, beautiful crib etc; Ministers of the Word and Eucharist and beautiful music from the choir at Masses and all the faithful who continue to support us. Next Pastoral Team Meeting will be tomorrow night, Monday 8:00pm

#### **Ordinary Time**

We are now in what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time'. The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

#### **Archdiocese of Dublin - Faith For Life Course**

This course is an Adult Faith Development Course for those who are searching or seeking to deepen their faith. The course will run over 4 weekends in 2017: 14-15th January, 25-26th February, 1-2nd April & 20-21st May in SsPeter & Paul Parochial House, Balbriggan. The cost is €200. For more information please contact Peter Siney, Co-ordinator of Adult Faith Development Phone: 089 461 4226 Email: [peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie) or Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism, Dublin Diocese 8373732 . [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie)

#### **Another Baptism Reflection**

Baptism was not over and done with the day we were taken to the font. We are baptised by all that happens us in life. We are baptised by hardship; in its turbulent waters we are purified of all that is false and useless. We are baptised by suffering; in its murky waters we grow in humility and compassion. We are baptised by joy: in gurgling waters we experience the goodness of life. We are baptised by love: in its singing waters we blossom like flowers in the sun. baptism is like planting the seed. It will take a lifetime for this seed to grow and ripen. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

**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**



The Baptism of the Lord

#### **My favour rests on him**

*"At Christ's baptism, the Father's voice was heard, calling Jesus his beloved Son, and in this love we can recognise the Holy Spirit (Amoris Laetitia 71)"*



Newsletter Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017

With the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus the cycle of the Lord's manifestations continues. It began at Christmas with the Birth in Bethlehem of the Incarnate Word, contemplated by Mary, Joseph and the shepherds in the humility of the crib. The Epiphany, when the Messiah, through the Magi, showed himself to all the peoples, marked an important milestone. On this day, on the banks of the Jordan, Jesus reveals himself to John and to the People of Israel. It is the first time that he enters the public scene as an adult, after leaving Nazareth. We find him with John the Baptist to whom multitudes have flocked, in an unusual scene.

The baptism John offers is one of repentance, a sign that is an invitation to conversion, to a change of life, because One is coming who will "baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Lk. 3: 16). Indeed, it is impossible to aspire to a new world while remaining immersed in selfishness and habits linked to sin. Jesus too leaves his home and his customary occupations to go to the Jordan. He arrives among the crowd that is listening to the John the Baptist and queues up like everyone else, waiting to be baptised.

As soon as he sees Jesus approaching, John realises that there is something unique in this Man, that he is the mysterious Other for whom he has been waiting and to whom his whole life is oriented. He understands that before him stands One who is greater than he, the thong of whose sandals he is not even worthy to untie.

At the Jordan Jesus reveals himself with an extraordinary humility, reminiscent of the poverty and simplicity of the Child laid in the manger, and anticipates the sentiments with which, at the end of his days on earth, he will come to the point of washing the feet of the disciples and suffering the terrible humiliation of the Cross. The Son of God, the One who is without sin, puts himself among sinners, demonstrates God's closeness to the process of the human being's conversion. Jesus takes upon his shoulders the burden of sin of the whole of humanity, he begins his mission by putting himself in our place, in the place of sinners, in the perspective of the Cross.

While absorbed in prayer he emerges from the water after his Baptism, the skies break open. It is the moment awaited by so many prophets: "O that you would rend the heavens and come down!", Isaiah had prayed (64: 1). At that moment, St Matthew seems to suggest, this prayer is heard. Indeed, "The heavens opened and he saw the Spirit like a dove and coming down on him" (Mt 3: 16); and words were heard that had never been heard before: "This is my Son, the Beloved: my favour rests on him" (v. 17). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come down among human people and reveal to us their love that saves. If it is the Angels who bring the shepherds the announcement of the Saviour's birth, and the star that conveys it to the Magi who came from the East, now it is the Father's voice that indicates the presence of his Son in the world to human beings and invites them to look to the Resurrection, to Christ's victory over sin and death.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us*

### Flowers

The flower arrangements over the Christmas Season were beautiful and involved hours of work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney



### Planned Giving

New Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road

### Parish Finances

As we begin 2017, 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 and graveyard maintenance, sanctuary, 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:** In these difficult economic times I thank you most sincerely to your continued very generous contributions to your priests; parish and diocese.

### Christmas Dues

A sincere thank you to all who have returned their Christmas Dues envelopes. Your continued generosity is very much appreciated. *If you did not receive a Christmas Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church. If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in Sacristy or Parish Office*

### Weekday Mass

The 8.00am morning mass is back on schedule

**Anam Cara,** the national organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 18th of January from 19:30 to 21:30 in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, Co. Dublin. The guest speaker for the evening is Brid Carroll. This is a free event open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara will need to confirm numbers for event, please RSVP to [info@anamcara.ie](mailto:info@anamcara.ie) before Tuesday 17th January or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 9th January For further information please phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

## The Baptism of the Lord

Begin by recalling some special moment between yourself and your parents. Did you ever hear from them the equivalent of "This is my son, my daughter, the beloved: my favour rests on you"? In Jesus' ministry, on several occasions, he felt such a word from his Abba, his Father. His baptism by John was one such moment, as was the Transfiguration later on. Such deep love and affirmation grounded him as a human being and as God's prophet to the people of Israel. Our sense of calling grows out of our relationship with the Father, whose beloved we are, whose favour we enjoy.



**Prayer** - Let us hear again, Abba, Father, your words of favour to each one of us. Direct us on the Way of discipleship, that we may be bearers of the Good News by simply being who we truly are before you. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

## To the Point

There is a tension in the gospel between John and Jesus. Jesus comes to John for baptism. John wants to "prevent him." Jesus says, "Allow it"; John does what Jesus asks. How often are baptised followers of Jesus so we experience tension between ourselves and what Jesus is asking us to do? In giving ourselves over to Jesus the tension is resolved, the power of the Spirit is unleashed, and the identity of Jesus is revealed to the world. (Source: Living Liturgy)

## Brackenstown Bible Study 2017

During 2016 we ran two very informative and enjoyable Scripture study courses. In spring we followed Jeff Cavins 8 week DVD study "Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible". In the autumn we completed Jeff Cavins 13 week "The Bible Timeline Reading Plan". During 2017 we will study Jeff Cavins 23 week DVD course "The Bible Timeline; The Story of Salvation". The course will consist of 12 classes in the spring and 11 classes in the autumn. This is the foundational study in The Great Adventure Bible Study Series that has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics learn to read the Bible. The Bible Timeline is a fascinating study that takes participants on a journey through the entire Bible. They will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, they will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith

**Course Duration:** Spring classes commence Monday 30 /01/17; twelve sessions. Autumn classes commence Monday 04/09/17; eleven sessions.

**Course Cost:** €20.00 to cover the cost of the DVDs & the study book Course

**Time:** Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.00 p.m      **Venue:** St Cronan's Parish Pastoral Centre. Bookings: by 09/01/17. Limited to 35 people

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Peg McNally**

**Castlegrange Close**

