

- In our world where so many seek human fulfilment in success and possession and power, we need the sign of religious life which is a sign where men and women attempt to witness, even if in an imperfect way, that real human fulfilment is not in self-fulfilment alone, but also in self-giving and in service.
- We begin a year of celebration. Celebration for the Christian is always about renewal and conversion. The challenge of being an authentic religious is about our ability to recognise the need for conversion and in having the trust that in the spirit such conversion is possible.
- Our world today needs the witness of authentic religious life. Let each of us remember that spark of faith and commitment which inspired us to begin the adventure of responding to the call of Jesus Christ. Never give in to cynicism or mediocrity. Never believe that we have done enough and we can sit back in resignation. The breath of the Spirit can blow on even the smallest remnants of that original spark that is still there and kindle them anew and create warmth and light and lead us to be joyful witnesses to the God revealed in Jesus Christ, the God who loves us and who calls to live that love.

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00am People of the Parish	Sat 11.00am Parish Mass of Healing and Anointing for the Sick
Mon 10.00am Sheila McShane	Sat 6.30pm Frank King
Tues 8.00 am Rene Campbell	Sun 8.30am Mary & Paddy O'Keefe & Jacqueline Monaghan
Tues 10.00am Priests of the Parish	Sun 10.00am John o'Dwyer
Wed 8.00am Peter Carberry	Sun 11.30am Deceased members of the Desmond Family
Wed 10.00 am Mae Kenny	Sun 7.30pm Paschal Slye
Thurs 8.00am Vera Lynch	
Thurs 10.00am Special Intention	
Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	
Fri 10.00 am Michael Gaffney	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM
Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am (Irish) & 12 noon**

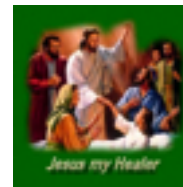
Three members of the Drynam Liturgy Team are attending the Spring Liturgy Seminar in Clonliffe this weekend, organised by the Dublin Diocesan Liturgical Resource Centre. Tea and coffee today after all Masses. All welcome.

First Friday

This coming Friday all Masses will be offered for all names of the Parish Altar list of the dead. If you like a Priest to visit the sick and the housebound please give Colette at the Parish Office the details.

Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 8 Luty, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

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)
 Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon -Sat 9.30am-10.30am)
 Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
**In union with the entire Church we begin
 this Year of Consecrated Life,**



“Save us, O Lord our God!”

Newsletter Sunday 1st February 2015

This Year of our Lord 2015 has been set aside by Pope Francis to mark Consecrated Life, which is the life of Religious Sisters; Priests and Brothers. One his reasons for calling this Year of Consecrated Life, Pope Francis stresses, is to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Constitution *Lumen Gentium* of the Second Vatican Council and the renewal of the Church which that Council set out to achieve, especially a renewal in holiness which is the vocation to which all Christians are called.

In a new document, to mark this year, Pope Francis sets out ideas which might set the agenda for the year. He says to religious: “You do not just have a glorious history to remember and to talk about; but a great story still to construct. Look towards the future: the Holy Spirit sets out the challenge for you to do great things”.

The Archbishop gave an address to at the beginning of Advent (the beginning if the Church's liturgical year) to mark this event. Some of his points I have detailed below. What he says whilst of particular interest to consecrated persons ***also concerns all of us, as the vocation of our Baptism calling belongs to all Christians and it is a calling to holiness.***

- There is something about the Christian life which leads us to celebrate in a different way. That something is *the nature of God*, of the God revealed in Jesus Christ. Our God is someone who identifies not with the spectacular and the powerful, but with the ones who do not have the glamour and celebrity of the world - indeed those who do not even have the basic necessities. No: it is not just that our God identifies himself with the excluded, he reveals himself in and through the weak and the excluded.
- Religious life is a sign, not just a calling. Religious are called to witness to the Jesus Christ who became poor so that we could share in his riches. The celebration of our glorious history is therefore a celebration of those who became poor for the sake of Jesus through our entering more deeply into their spirit of poverty.
- True prayer is always the prayer of the humble. The prayer of the humble renders glory to God and indicates the path of life. The authentic prayer of religious is a sign not just of their own calling or personal spirituality but a witness to what is the very essence of authentic human life. Placing oneself humbly in the presence of God and recognising that all we have is God's gift, changes the way in which we look on life and is a sign which calls others to authenticity in their lives.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you”



St. Colmcille's - Revised Mass Schedules

The new revised schedule has been in the newsletter for three full weeks. I have as you can expect received a small number of observations. To that end I'm suggesting the following. The new schedule for Sunday Masses as presented is **Saturday Vigil 6.30pm (Folk Group); Sunday 8.30am; 11.00am (Parish Choir) and 6.30pm.**

Is there a possible 3 Sunday Mass combination (leaving the Saturday Vigil unchanged) that has been overlooked? Therefore, next weekend 7th/8th February, a 'suggestion page' will be left at the end of the Church and I invite proposals for an alternative Sunday Mass schedule. It will be a one weekend exercise, the result of which will be considered by the Parish Pastoral Council. Feel free to drop your suggestions into the Sacristy if you will not be a Mass next weekend.

Please write a combination of 3 Sunday Mass times and (*not that I want to keep this Mass or don't change the time of this one etc*). **If you are in agreement or at least understand and broadly accept the new schedule**, then there is no need to complete the suggestion page. I hope that this is a fair response to the observations expressed by Parishioners.

What about the 'Do This in Memory' Mass? (DTIM)

Firstly the DTIM Mass is a Parish based Preparation Programme for our 1st Communion children as opposed to a School Programme. If the revised Mass schedule is accepted then there is the 'problem' of celebrating the Sunday 10.00 am DTIM Mass for St. Colmcille's GNS. St. Colmcille's BNS celebrate their Mass at the Saturday Evening Vigil at 6.30pm. These Masses fall roughly once a month over a nine month period. There are three possible suggestions: 1) Move the DTIM Mass to 11.00am. 2) Move it to the Saturday Vigil 6.30pm Mass after the St. Colmcille's BNS the week before. That would lead to two DTIM Masses a month on the Saturday evening. My preferred option is number 3 as follows: **I propose combining St. Colmcille's BNS and GNS at the one Mass, the Saturday Evening Vigil at 6.30pm.** The gallery will be open and that should give enough room in the Church to hold everyone.

Feast of St. Blaise

Throats will be blessed at the 8am and 10am Mass this Tuesday 3rd February to mark the Feast of St. Blaise.

Year for Consecrated Life

Pope Francis has designated 2015 as the Year for Consecrated Life. This follows on from Blessed Pope John Paul II who in 1997 instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day – We thank and pray especially for Srs. Margaret and Mary and of course Sr. Patrick. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation

Confirmation Classes

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

First Penance

This week is a special week for the girls and boys of our Parish Schools as they celebrate their First Penance. St. Colmcille's BNS will celebrate this Sacrament on Tuesday 3rd February at 7.30pm and St. Colmcille's GNS will celebrate this Sacrament on Thursday 5th February at 7.30pm. I thank the teachers for the preparatory work that they are undertaking and the parents for presenting their children for this Sacrament. It will be two lovely evenings and a wonderful week in the life of our Parish in 2015.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: If you carry your cross joyfully, it will carry you. – Thomas A Kempis (1379-1471)

Parish Mass of Healing and Anointing for the sick

February 11th, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is when the Church celebrates the 'World Day of the Sick'. On **Saturday 7th February at 11am** the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick in St. Colmcille's. All parishioners are welcome. It is an ideal opportunity to reach out to a housebound neighbour or a neighbour who has no means of transport and bring them to the church for this celebration.

'The World Day of the Sick..is a call once again to all, to see in the face of their brother or sister who is sick the face of Christ who, suffering, dying and rising, brought salvation to humanity.'

Blessed John Paul II

There will be no 10.00am Mass this Saturday Morning

Meals on Wheels -Drivers needed

Do you have an hour to spare each week. ?We are looking for drivers to deliver meals to people in the Swords area around mid-day. The role is purely voluntary, unpaid. Please contact Paul Mc Cormack on Ph: 0857232825

Lenten Bible Study Are you wondering what to do this Lent? Why not join us in St Cronan's for a seven week Lenten Bible study of the Gospels of Matthew & Mark? The reading plan will run from Monday 09/02/15 and end on 30/03/15, which is the Monday of Holy Week. There will be meetings each Monday at 7.30-8.30 pm to review and discuss the previous week's reading, and you will be provided with a reading guide for the following week. To register your interest please email brackenstownparish@gmail.com or phone 8401188. A talk on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark will take place on Monday 9th February at 8.00 pm in St Cronan's church. Guest speaker Fr. Paddy Boyle. All are welcome!

Candlemas Day - Monday 2nd February

If you have candles that you would like to be blessed, please bring along to Monday morning Mass