

The sixth corporal work of mercy is to comfort the sick. To "comfort the sick" means, first of all, to comfort them with something they urgently need: namely, proper medical assistance.

Of course, there are some people who are "sick" not from physical illness but from social isolation. One thinks especially of the elderly in our communities who, whether at home or in long-term care facilities, live in geographical isolation from their loved ones.

"Visiting the sick" in our world can mean reaching out to the friendless in our local nursing homes: those who are "sick at heart" from being lonely and forgotten and who are regularly deprived of the basic human need called "friendship." This corporal work of mercy is relatively easy to do. It takes no extensive background reading in economics and no training in political activism to accomplish. The socially isolated elderly are usually not far away. They often live just around the corner from us, or they are members of our own parish. Most of all, do not forget that some of them may even be members of your own family, relatives too much overlooked and too often forgotten.

Visiting the housebound elderly and the chronically and terminally ill is no easy task. But our mere presence, as someone willing to be a friend and a listening ear, can mean much more to them than we can imagine, and along the way they will be giving a precious gift to us as well: the gift of growth in the virtue of compassion. **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Joseph Coleman Snr **Sat** 10.00am Eamonn Weldon & Dec family members

Mon 10.00am Sr Anna Haughigan

Tues 8.00am Angela Dillon

Tues 10.00am Mary Lynch

Wed 8.00am Peter Carberry

Wed 10.00am Mary Minitier

Thurs 8.00am Christopher Morgan

Thurs 10.00am Bishop O'Mahony

Fri 8.00am Special Intention

Fri 10.00am Maura Donovan

Sat 6.30pm Peggy & Johnny Reid
Mary Graham MM
Paddy Woods

Sun 8.30am Theresa McCarthy

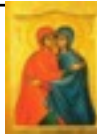
Sun 11.00am Mary, Jack & Dan Doyle

Sun 6.30pm Larry Mulvihill

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am/11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon . Monday 9.20am

We are working with Rivervally, Brackenstown and Swords parishes to organise a Pilgrim Walk in June similar to the very successful one 4 years ago at the time of the Eucharistic Congress. If you have ideas or would like to help organise this event please let one of the Pastoral Team know.



Faith Renewal Events

Knock Shrine is holding a series of Spring-Summer events, to explore, strengthen and ignite your faith. Two examples are:

'Making Good Decisions: A beginner's guide' workshop with Fr. Brian Grogan SJ, on Sat. March 19th.
'Women of the Well', A weekend retreat on women's spirituality, Apr 15th; 16th & 17th

For further information see www.knockshrine.ie/faithrenewal or Tel: 094-9388100

Legion of Mary

Holy Mass for the beatification of The Servant of God Alfie Lambe, legion of Mary envoy to South America 1953-1959 will be celebrated on Sunday 28th February 2016 at 12noon in The Church of the Three Patrons Rathgar. Celebrant and homilist: Very Rev. Martin Halpin P.P. Mullingar, all welcome.

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)

Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon -Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)

Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



2nd Sunday of Lent

The Corporal Works of Mercy-cont'd

"It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face from me"

Newsletter Sunday 21st February 2016

Continuing on from last week's newsletter in which I

am highlighting the 14 works of Mercy.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs", and they respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

- (1) Feed the hungry. (2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked. (4) Shelter the homeless. (5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick. (7) Bury the dead.

Third and Fourth: Clothe the Naked and Shelter the Homeless

Our universal concern for the plight of the poor must be acknowledged as a genuine priority. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches: "[Human] misery elicited the compassion of Christ the Saviour ... Hence, those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a *preferential love* on the part of the Church" (2448).

There are also well-established groups that specialize in relieving the problem of homelessness. Supporting their work is almost always a great way to practice these works of mercy. As for "clothing the naked," you can always go through your closets and find garments to donate to the needy. Local thrift shops, or the St. Vincent de Paul clothing appeal would be happy to make them available to the needy at a low cost (and often those thrift shops are selling their items to raise money for other good causes, too, such as a local hospital or hospice).

Finally, bear in mind that those of you who are working hard each day to earn the money to provide food and drink, clothing and shelter for your own families, and those of you who cook and clean at home, are already practicing these corporal works of mercy, at least *outwardly*. Why not practice them *inwardly* now as well, from the heart, not grudgingly or merely out of routine, but with compassion and love for your spouse and children, doing all to the glory of God and giving thanks to God the Father for providing for all your needs (see I Cor 10:31, Col 3:17). In this way, as St. Paul wrote, the simplest daily chore becomes "a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God," a true "spiritual worship" (Rom 12:1).

Fifth and Sixth: Visit those in Prison, Comfort the Sick

People in prison are still people, made in the image and likeness of God. No matter what someone has done, they deserve the opportunity to hear the Word of God and find the Truth of the message of Christ. With some violent criminals, society has little choice but to "lock them up and throw away the key."

Throw away the key, indeed — but not the *person*. Punishment deters and quarantines and gives the criminal the opportunity to do penance, but friendship and prayer have the capacity to reform and to heal.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

What is Mercy?

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.

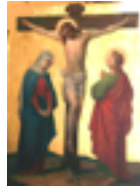


Year of Mercy

The seventh paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘*Misericordiae Vultus*’ continues “For his mercy endures forever.” This is the refrain that repeats after each verse in Psalm 136 as it narrates the history of God's revelation. By virtue of mercy, all the events of the Old Testament are replete with profound salvific import. Mercy renders God's history with Israel a history of salvation. To repeat continually “for his mercy endures forever,” as the psalm does, seems to break through the dimensions of space and time, inserting everything into the eternal mystery of love. It is as if to say that not only in history, but for all eternity man will always be under the merciful gaze of the Father. It is no accident that the people of Israel wanted to include this psalm – the “Great *Hallel*,” as it is called – in its most important liturgical feast days.

Stations of Cross

For the Season of Lent, I have placed prayers and reflections under each of the Stations in the Church. They will remain for Lent and will I hope help if you are not sure what to pray when at each station. I have put them there to encourage the praying of the stations during Lent and parents will I trust find them helpful if they want to teach their children with them. *If you are very busy you could ‘space out’ the stations and pray them over the course of a week*



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.

Mass for Healing with the Sacrament of the Sick

The parish celebrated Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick last Saturday morning at 11.00am. The weekend was the celebration of the 24th World Day of the Sick, connected to the liturgical memorial of the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday 11th February. It was a lovely celebration and I thank all who attended. It seemed to have touched people, which is all that one can ask for. Those in attendance received the Sacrament and at this Mass, we prayed for and remembered all our parishioners who are sick and/or housebound. I want to thank the Liturgy Team for arranging a beautiful liturgical space and the welcome refreshments after the Mass. If anyone would like myself or Fr. Peter to visit a sick or elderly relative at home please let us know, or leave information with Colette.

The Parish Pastoral Collection.

This outdoor collection takes place after all Masses next weekend. Please support, as all funds go to the Parish

Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 26th Feb** after the 10.00am Mass. I hope that ‘Team 2’ cleaners for this second Friday of the month can make it! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend

Two collectors for each weekend Mass are required. Please give 5 minutes after Mass. If you volunteer for this task please take a basket from the Sacristy before Mass

There will be four of these collections throughout the year. This fund will provide for the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It also provides for all art and décor, banners and flowers etc. There are other expenses throughout the year, such as the printing of booklets, prayers, candles, postage stamps etc. As a Parish we are very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed volunteers; they give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Please give what you can to this fund to help us ensure that they have the best possible support in their ministries. This collection takes place in St. Colmcille's only. The four dates are w/end 28th/29th February; 22nd/23rd May; 28th/29th August and 27th/28th November.

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. 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 **Monday 29th February** For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Three of the activities which have become associated with Lent are: prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Prayer is simply moving towards God who is already close to us. In Luke's gospel, Jesus encourages us to do this all the time and not to lose heart. The gospels present Jesus to us as someone who gave prayer an important place in his life. No matter how far removed from God we may think we are that gap is bridged when we begin to pray.

Reflection - There are many kinds of prayer: public and private, spoken and silent, calm and passionate, confident and demoralised. The psalms provide us with examples of all of these. There was no human situation which wouldn't allow the psalmist to call out to the Lord. Today there is no life situation which can prevent us from raising our minds and hearts to God. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)



Fundraiser for orphanage in Calcutta in connection with the Hope Foundation

Senior Citizens Centre 22nd February from 10.30am to 12.30. Baking and sugar craft demonstration with refreshments Donation €5.