

First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer!

Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organisations. Lent is a favourable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family.

Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. If we humbly implore God's grace and accept our own limitations, we will trust in the infinite possibilities which God's love holds out to us. We will also be able to resist the diabolical temptation of thinking that by our own efforts we can save the world and ourselves.

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart. A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realises its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you".

**Fr. Michael Carey**

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

**Mon** 8.00am Audrey Mullen

**Mon** 10.00am Thomas Nulty

**Tues** 8.00am Anne Murphy

**Tues** 10.00am Bartle Savage

**Wed** 8.00 am Thomas & Esther Larkin

**Wed** 10.00am James Hickey

Eugene Lawlor

**Thurs** 8.00am Michael Moran

**Thurs** 10.00am Audrey Mullen

**Fri** 8.00 am Agnes Maxwell

**Fri** 10.00am Health Intention

James Gleasure

**Sat** 10.00am Michael Callan

**Sat** 6.30pm Des Burrows, Catherine O'Gorman

Elizabeth Flynn

**Sun** 8.30am Ernest & Kathleen McMahon

**Sun** 11.00am Mary O'Connor

**Sun** 6.30pm Dec members of the McKitterick

Family

**Church of the Visitation Drynam    The Visitation of the BVM**

**Mass Times for Drynam: Mon & Fri:9.20am. Sun, 10.00am11.00am (Irish)& 12 noon**

In the next week, we will be distributing an Easter Card, Easter Ceremonies Schedule and a Newsletter to all houses in Drynam. Thank you to all who help in the distribution.



**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Kathleen Naidoo**

**Bobby Brophy**

**Rathbeale Road**

**Carlton Court**



**Legion of Mary** ACIES (annual consecration to our blessed lady) will be held in St. Sylvester's church Malahide, on Saturday 28th March 2015 at 3pm. Auxiliary members most 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)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon -Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

Website: [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)



5th Sunday of Lent

**Make your hearts firm (2)**

*“Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless”*



Newsletter Sunday 22nd March 2015

Continuing from a fortnight ago, the Pope's Lenten message:

**“Where is your brother/sister?” – Parishes and Communities**

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be applied to the life of our parishes and communities. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors?

In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfilment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: 'I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls'.

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth. In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again.

**'Make your hearts firm!' – Individual Christians**

As individuals too, we have are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness?

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “ Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit”



### Parish Holiday

There are posters on the walls and information in the newsletter regarding our Parish Holiday to the Krakow, Poland. Many parishes run pilgrimages and some holidays. Both are I believe worthwhile. A Parish holiday is a lovely and safe way of travelling (especially if you are looking for someone/group to go with on holiday) and seeing a part of the world. Everything is organised to a very high standard. There are organised trips and time for people to do their 'own thing'.

### Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

### Golf Classic

The fundraising committee will be running its annual Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015**. The Parish is creating a fund for the interior redecoration of St. Colmcille's Church and the proceeds from the classic will go towards that fund. **In order for it to be a success**, we need to expand the organising Committee. So if you are a keen golfer, have good IT skills or admin skills, **we would really welcome your input**. For further information contact: Susan Rallo – **086 8152255**; Bernie Campbell - **086 5419562**; John Campbell - **087 9079245**

### Confirmation - Ceremony of Light

Over the past three weeks Sr. Margaret; Sr. Mary; Fr. Peter and myself conducted a retreat for the Confirmation classes from St. Colmcille's GNS and BNS. It was held in the parochial house, which proved very suitable. The days went very well and I know that the boys and girls appreciated the experience. Last Thursday and this coming Tuesday the boys and girls take their final step in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation by participating in the 'Ceremony of Light'. This ceremony is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves.

### Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist - St. Colmcille's

In preparation for the Easter Ceremonies, members of the above Ministry Teams are invited to St. Colmcille's Church on Tuesday next 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. The format for the evening is the preparation of the schedules for Holy Week, followed by a 'talk' by Fr. Paddy Boyle – a reflection on Holy Week and the some light refreshments. The event should last about 1 hour. I hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE:** Take comfort; you would not be seeking me if you had not already found me..... Blaise Pascal (1588-1651)

**CURA:** To avail of Cura's crisis pregnancy support service see [www.cura.ie](http://www.cura.ie) or call 1850 622626

## Parish Tour to Poland - Based in Krakow

**Monday 29th June – Saturday 4th July 2015**

*Krakow largely escaped wartime damage, and remains one of Eastern Europe's most architecturally beautiful cities. The Old Town centre round the Grand Market Square, is full of fine buildings including the twin Towered Gothic St. Mary's Church, the Cloth Hall and on the hill overlooking the Vistula River stands the Renaissance Cathedral and Wawel Castle. Our tour to Poland will give you a bird's eye view of **Pope John Paul's home country** and the Province where he was born and reared. We will visit his hometown **Wadowice** and stay in **Krakow** where he spent his adult life before going to Rome. We will make a pilgrimage to **Auschwitz** and remember all those who suffered or died there and also visit the shrine of **St. Faustina**.*

**Accommodation: Atrium Hotel 3\*** [www.hotelatrium.pl](http://www.hotelatrium.pl) Centrally located in the Old Town and just a short walk from the Market Square. The hotel has a bar and restaurant serving local cuisine.

**Price per person sharing:- €725.00**

**Price includes:** \*Return flights Dublin/Krakow\*5 night's accommodation, twin sharing on a bed and breakfast basis + 2 dinners\* Guided walking tour of the medieval city \* Day excursion to Wadowice – birthplace of Pope John Paul 11 \* Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau \* Visit to the world famous Salt mines of Wieliczka

**Extras:** *Baggage fee (currently €50.00 – 15 kg)\* Insurance: €28.00 (65 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)\* Single room supplement: €30.00 per person per night (limited availability)*  
**Deposit €250.00 per person – Book early!!**

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's first reading speaks of a new covenant. Jeremiah's ministry spanned the period at the end of the Seventh and the beginning of the Sixth Century before Christ. He justifies the notion of a new covenant on the grounds that the earlier covenant made between God and Israel at the time of the exodus from Egypt was broken by the people. He interprets all the mishaps that befell Israel in the meantime as God's attempt to bring them back to their senses and ultimately to him.

**Liturgical Bits and Bites** The Holy Oils - During the Holy Thursday liturgy, the holy oils that were blessed by the Archbishop at the Chrism Mass are processed into both our churches. They are presented to the community with a prayer/explanation by the presider for each one. The oil of the sick for the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the oil of catechumens for those preparing to celebrate baptism, and the sacred chrism used in the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy orders are each presented and reverently placed in a visible location

### Feasts this Week

The Annunciation of the Lord - Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> It celebrates Mary's 'Yes' to the Angel Gabriel that she be the mother of 'Our Lord'. We are holy because Jesus is holy. We do not earn holiness by doing good deeds, but our good deeds – our care and concern for others - is a concrete expression of our holiness, our relationship with God. We celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. We also celebrate this day Jesus being made flesh in our own lives by our faithful living of the divine Life that was first given us in baptism and continues to grow in us as we, like Mary, say yes to God in all we do