

programme, but because the word and example of the Lord tell us that they are our brothers. This is the principle of God's love and of all justice between men".
 "And now I suggest one thing", he added, off the cuff: "in silence, each of us, let us think of our brothers and sisters, and pray for them". St. Peter's Square remained in silence for a moment, after which Francis added, "With this prayer we brought all of them, our brothers and sisters, here in the square to be blessed".
 "Today, more than ever, it is necessary to bring fraternity back to the centre of our technocratic and bureaucratic society: then liberty and equality will also acquire the correct tone. Therefore, let us not light-heartedly deprive our families, through apprehension or fear, of the beauty of a full fraternal experience. And let us not lose our trust in the broad horizon that faith is able to draw from this experience, enlightened by God's blessing"

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special Intention

Mon 10.00am Christy Dignam & dec members of the Dignam Family

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am Special Intention

Wed 8.00am Kathleen White

Wed 10.00am Special Intention

Thurs 8.00am Gerry Foley

Thurs 10.00am **No Mass**

Fri 8.00am Holy Souls

Fri 10.00am Peggy Birmingham

Sun 6.30pm

Sun 8.30am Sean Andrews

Sun 11.15am Michael & Mary Moroney &

Deceased members of Bateman Family

Mary Cassidy (1st An)

Dermot Byrne (1st An)

Richard O'Connell (1st An)

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

We are still awaiting the Fire Certificate from Fingal County Council after the remedial works carried out last December - they have been requesting monthly extensions to the statutory time required for inspection. Meanwhile, the pastoral team is investigating what other works can be carried out to improve the visual appearance and utility of the church within our financial resources.

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The procession at the Preparation of the Gifts allows for popular participation in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The practice of a procession declined severely after the year 1,000 due to less frequent communion when less material was needed, and to the change in the bread used. The Church takes care of what type of bread it uses.

With the advent of the small host there was an increase in the money offered and a decrease in bread and wine. The restored rite involves the presentation of ourselves and of gifts with a view towards their being transformed (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

St. Vincent de Paul – Collection

The monthly collection for St Vincent De Paul local conference will be taken up after all Masses this weekend

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Family: Brother, sister: words beloved to Christianity

“Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth”

Newsletter Sunday 8th July 2018

Today's Gospel speaks among other things about family, "This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary....". In a discussion on family in 2015, Pope Francis spoke about fraternity. "Brother' and 'sister' are words that Christianity loves. And, thanks to the family, they are words that all cultures and all ages understand".

Fraternal bonds are very important in the history of the people of God, and are highly praised in the Old Testament. However, their rupture opened up a deep abyss in mankind, and God's question to Cain - "Where is your brother?" - never ceases to resonate throughout history. "And", exclaimed the Pontiff, "unfortunately, in this generation too, Cain's dramatic answer is also repeated endlessly: "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?". The rupture of the bond between brothers disfigures humanity. And even within families, how many brothers or sisters argue over small things, an inheritance, and then no longer even speak to or greet each other? If we think that they inhabited the womb of the same mother We all know families in which there are divisions between brothers/sisters. Let us pray to the Lord for them, to help brothers and sisters be reunited and families rebuilt. And let us always keep these divided brothers/sisters in our prayers".

The bond of fraternity that is formed in the family, among children, if it occurs a climate of education in openness to others, "is the great school of freedom and peace. Perhaps we are not always aware of this, but it is precisely the family that introduces fraternity into the world", remarked the Pope, emphasising that from this first experience, fraternity "radiates like a promise to the whole of society and the relations between peoples. And the blessing that God – in Jesus Christ – lavishes upon this bond of fraternity, extends it unimaginably, making it capable of surpassing any difference of nation, culture or even religion".

He added, "Think about what becomes of the bond between men, even the most diverse, when they are able to say of another, 'he is just like a brother, she is just like a sister to me'. History has demonstrated sufficiently that even liberty and equality, without fraternity, can be filled with individualism, conformism and personal interest".

Fraternity in the family shines in a special way "when we see the care, patience, and affection that surround those brothers and sisters who are weak, sick, or disabled. Having a brother or a sister who cares for you is a powerful experience, priceless and irreplaceable. The same applies to the Christian family. We must be moved to tenderness by the smallest, the weakest, the poorest: they have a 'right' to capture our heart and soul. Yes, they are our brothers and sisters and we must love them and treat them as such. When this happens, when it is as if the poor are part of the family, our Christian fraternity comes to life. Indeed, Christians go towards the poor and the weak not in obedience to an ideological



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.



Cemetery Mass

At this Mass I read a poem, which seemed to resonate with many. I'm printing it here. I do not know the author, so my apologies for not attributing title/ownership. I think it's 'author unknown', but I could be wrong!

To my Dearest Family

To my dearest family, some things I'd like to say;

First of all to let you know, that I arrived ok.

I'm writing this from Heaven, where I dwell with God above,
Where there's no more tears or sadness, there is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy, just because I'm out of sight;
Remember that I'm with you, every morning and every night.

The day I had to leave you, when my life on earth was through;

God picked me up and hugged me, and said I welcome you.

It's good to have you back again, you were missed whilst you were gone;

As for your dearest family, there'll be here later on.

I need you here so badly, as part of my big plan;

There's so much we have to do, to help our mortal man.

Then he gave me a list of things, he wishes for me to do;

And foremost on that list of mine, is to watch and care for you.

And I will be beside you, every day, week and year,

And when you're sad, I'm standing to wipe away the tears.

And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight,

I am even closer to you, in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth, and all the living years;

Because you are only human they are bound to bring you tears,

But do not be afraid to cry, it does resolve the pain,

Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.

I wish I could tell you, of all that God has planned

But if I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand.

But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is over,

I am closer to you now, than I ever was before.

And to my family and friends, trust God knows what is best;

I am not far away from you, I'm just beyond the crest.

When you are walking down the street, and you've got me on your mind;

I am walking in your footsteps, only a half a step behind.

And when you feel that gentle breeze, or the wind upon your face,

That's me giving you a great big hug, or just a soft embrace.

And when it's time for you to go, from your body to be free;

Remember you are not going, you are coming here to me.

And I will always love you, from that land up above;

But until we get in touch again, I'll just send you all my love.

Saturday Mornings - Summer

For the month of July and August there will be no morning prayer and no liturgies in the Church on Saturday mornings with the exception of Mass on the first Saturday's of the Month namely Saturday 7th July and Saturday 4th August

St. Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

This takes place on **Saturday 11th August**. To book your seat please contact Mary: 087-2711376 or Ita: 01-8402268. Coach costs €15 and departs from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. There will be a stopover for Breakfast/Snack en - route and an Evening meal/carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. (This cost is not included in the coach fare)

Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at The Parochial House, Seatown Road, @7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." Date of next meeting 9th July . Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

PATHWAYS Exploring Faith as an Adult

The Pathways Programme is suitable for adults who wish to explore issues and questions of faith, ministry, the Church today and the nature of belief, in an environment appropriate to Adult Learning and Adult Faith Development. Pathways is a two-year, one evening a week course. It takes place on Thursday evenings in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe Road. September to May (7.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.). Booking is now open. Early application is advised as places are limited. Contact: Pathways Director, Eileen Houlahan at 01 8087594 or pathways@dublindiocese.ie. Web: www.evangelisation.ie

Week of Guided Prayer St Paul's Arran Quay invites you to take time for yourself by joining us for our week of Guided prayer from Sunday 7th - Saturday 13th October 2018. This is a retreat with a difference - sometimes called a 'Retreat in Daily Life', or a 'Busy Person's Retreat', as you don't have to go away to a quiet, beautiful place to find God. It is a way of making a retreat in the midst of daily living, to find God in your everyday life. If you are interested in participating please download the registration form available at www.evangelisation.ie Closing date for registration is Tuesday 31st July.

The Irish Cancer Society needs an extra 200 drivers for their Volunteer Driver Service in the north and west of Dublin to drive cancer patients to and from their chemotherapy appointments. We are looking for drivers with free weekday availability and who have a car available to them. Drivers should be able to commit to driving at least two full (week)days a month. All volunteer expenses are paid. If you would like to volunteer, please call Laura on 01 2310 594, email transport@irishcancer.ie for an application form.