

“We are not orphans; we are children, we have a mother – the Virgin, the mother Church and our mother. We are not orphans, we are children of the Church, we are the children of Mary and of our mother. Thank you, dear mothers, for what you are in the family and for what you give to the Church and to the world. And to you, our beloved Church, thank you for being a mother. And to you, Mary, Mother of God, thank you for presenting us to Jesus” **Fr. Michael Carey**

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

Mon 8.00am Peggy Hanley	Sat 10.00am Elizabeth McGuinness
Mon 10.00am Dec members of Geraghty & McGreevy families	Sat 6.30pm Bernadette & Jimmy McConville Anna Walsh
Mon (Vigil) 6.30pm John Cookson	Sun 8.30am William & Bridget Donnelly
Tues 8.30am Ellen & Joe McCarthy	Sun 11.00am Kathleen Lee
Tues 11.00am John Allen	Thurs 8.00am Michael Callan Jean, Jenny & Donnie Stapleton
Wed 8.00 am Special Intention	Sun 6.30pm Jerry & Isobel Byrne Special Intention
Wed 10.00am Kevin Smith	
Thurs 10.00am Clare Langan	
Fri 8.00 am Health Intention	
Fri 10.00am John Mernagh	

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
 We will have Mass here in Drynam on St Patrick’s Day at 9:20AM.



St. Patrick-Patron Saint of Ireland-Tuesday 17th March

St. Colmcille’s: Vigil 6.30pm. Day Mass; 8.30am and 11.00am (no evening Mass)
Our Lady of the Visitation-Drynam: Day Mass 9.20am

Saint Patrick-Patron of Ireland

Patrick was born very probably in the early years of the fifth century in Britain. He was taken captive at the age of 16 and brought to Ireland, where he worked as a slave. His captivity had a very positive effect on his spiritual life. He escaped back home at the age of 22. It was obvious to him that God was calling him to return to convert the Irish. After studies in Europe he returned to Ireland and made a very large number of converts. His spiritual journey is recounted in his *Confessio*.

The Parish Pastoral Collection- new flagpoles

This outdoor collection takes place after all Masses this Sunday. Please support, as all funds go to the Parish. I will be purchasing two new flagpoles as the ones outside are in a state of disrepair. **Hopefully I have two collectors for each Mass – just let Stephanie know!**

An evening for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist with Fr Paddy Boyle will take place on **Tuesday March 24th at 7.30pm** in St Colmcille’s Church. in preparation for Easter

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



4th Sunday of Lent

Central role of mothers

“Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast”



Newsletter Sunday 15th March 2015

The first day of the year is the feast day of the Mother of God, followed by the Epiphany, which recalls the visit of the Magi. The evangelist Matthew writes, 'And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him'. It was the Mother who, after having generated Him, who presents the Son to the world. She gives us Jesus, she shows Jesus to us”.

With these words Pope Francis began the first catechesis of the Wednesday morning general audiences of 2015, which he dedicated to the figure of the mother, both in the family and in the Christian community.

“Every human being owes his or her life to a mother, and almost always owes much of his or her subsequent existence, human and spiritual formation, to her”, affirmed the Pope. “However, although the mother is highly exalted from a symbolic point of view, she is listened to and helped very little in daily life, and her central role in society is not given much consideration. On the contrary, often the willingness of mothers to sacrifice themselves for their children is exploited in order to save on social expenditure”.

Even in the Christian community, the mother is not always given due consideration. “Yet at the centre of the life of the Church there is the Mother of Jesus. ... It is necessary to better understand their daily struggle to be efficient at work and attentive and affectionate at home; we must better understand what they aspire to in order to express the best and most authentic results of their emancipation”.

Mothers are “the strongest antidote to individualism. ... They are those who most hate war, which kills their children. They bear witness to the beauty of life. Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero said that mothers live a 'maternal martyrdom'. In his homily at the funeral of a priest killed by death squads, he said, echoing Vatican Council II, 'We must all be willing to die for our faith, even if the Lord does not grant us this honour... Giving life does not only mean being killed; giving life, having the spirit of martyrdom, is giving in duty, in silence, in prayer, in the honest fulfilment of one's duty; in that silence of everyday life, giving life a little at a time. Yes, as it is given by a mother, who without fear, with the simplicity of maternal martyrdom, conceives a child in her womb, gives him life, nurses him, nurtures him and cares for him with affection. It is giving life. It is martyrdom'. Yes, being a mother does not mean merely bringing a child into the world, but it is also a choice of life, the decision to give life”.

“A society without mothers would be an inhuman society, as mothers always know how to show tenderness, devotion and moral strength, even in the moments of greatest difficulty. Mothers often also transmit the deepest sense of religious practice. ... It is a message that mothers who believe know how to transmit without much explanation; this arrives later, but the seed of faith is planted in those first precious moments. Without mothers ... faith would lose a good part of its simple, profound warmth”. “And the Church is a mother”, exclaimed the Pope.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together”

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost E5 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

Confirmation Mass

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm 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.

Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is I believe a powerful Liturgy, in particular because of the Lord's Mandate to Peter concerning the washing of feet. Fr. Peter and I would like to do this as part of the Liturgy. It is a liturgical action – *the feet are already clean!!* I invite you to consider volunteering, Please do not be afraid or shy! We need about 6 people. Please leave your name in the sacristy. Thank you

Confession

When we examine our conscience prior to going to Confession, we usually ask ourselves, ‘What sins have I committed?’ We rarely look at our sins of omission, which may well be our worst sins. We may think we are good simply because we don't do anyone any harm, But what about the good we fail to do? From a Christian point of view, there is only one real failure in life – the failure to love. If one's love is active, failure to reach perfection in other areas of one's life will be forgiven. But there is no substitute for active love.

Synod on the Family

This Synod will take place in Rome from 4th to 25th October 2015 to treat the topic, “*The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and Contemporary World*”. The Pope has published the document which will be discussed and it is available on the Parish website: www.swords-parish.com. A discussion night on the Synod of the Family will be held on Wednesday 18th March at 7:30pm in St. Cronan's School Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Mother's Day Prayer

May the blessing of the Divine
Be an especially bright benediction
Upon mothers everywhere

On your blessed day
On Mother's Day



A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: After I recognised that there is a God, it was impossible for me not to live for him alone.....Bl. Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916, Christian hermit in the Sahara Desert).

- Mens's Retreat will take place on Palm Sunday - **29th March** at Emmaus Retreat Centre. 10.am - 6.00pm. Contact Paddy Gerrard 087 4170075/8401466
- An evening of theatre, music, story- telling and comedy, presented by Jeff Lucas, author of the best-selling book *Faith in the fog*. Riasec centre Swords Wed 25th March 7.15 pm. Tickets 12 euro at the door or 10 euro in advance from Hilary at 087 837 or 1120 or 01 6268519

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 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!!

Lenten Resolutions - We tend to think of Lenten resolutions as things that we will give up for Lent, like chocolate, or sweets in general, or coffee. We think it should be something that feels like a true sacrifice. These can be good things to do to build our will power and to help us focus on what is important in our lives. Instead, or in addition, it might be a good idea to do something extra for Lent. One can join a Bible study group or other parish discussion group that will help us grow in our spirituality or prayer life. We can also sacrifice our time to do things that will help others. We can offer to drive people to church, or to doctor appointments. We can cook a meal for someone who is ill. Just think about what might be a benefit to others and give it a try. **Lectio Divina** – praying the Word of God - If you want to give it a go and *you would be made feel very welcome*, just visit the Parochial House, Seatown Rd, where this group meets every **Tuesday from 8.00 to 9.00pm**.

B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Coping effectively with bereavement is a skill we can all learn. Next residential weekend will be held **15th – 17th May 2015**, in All Hallows, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. For further information please contact 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com

