

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Patrick Leonard
Mon 10.00am Special Intention
Tues 8.00am Pat O'Reilly
Tues 10.00 Sylvester Ferris
Wed 8.00am Patrick Duffy
Wed 10.00am Patrick Barry Jnr
Thurs 8.00am Patrick Duffy
Thurs 10.00am Patrick Duffy
Fri 8.00am Pat O'Reilly
Fri 10.00am Dec members of Elmore Family

Sat 6.30pm Joe & Margaret Prendergast
Deceased members of Agnew Family
Michael Hall (1st An)

Sun 8.30am Fiona Burke
Sun 11.15am Des Becton

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 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 Advent

Rejoice, so highly favoured!

“O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations”



Newsletter Sunday 9th December 2018

Yesterday the Church celebrated the beautiful Feast of the Immaculate Conception. So today being the day after I thought I would write this week's newsletter on this Feast Day. Mary's perplexity at the greeting of the angel, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you', must have stayed with her for all of her life. The birth in the stable, the flight into Egypt, trying to eke out a living in the hill country of Judea, the vigil at the foot of the cross – Is this what it means to be favoured by God? Mary must have wondered! Mary had been favoured by God in preparation for her part in God's plan of salvation from the very start of her life.

The greeting of Gabriel to Mary in the gospel, 'Hail, full of grace', captures the meaning of this feast. Mary is full of God's gracious love. If the essence of sin is turning away from God, Mary is totally turned towards God. Her openness is captured in her final word's in today's gospel reading: 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me'.

So today we celebrate the good news that at least one human being, Mary, has responded fully to the call of God. As we strive to answer that same call we look to Mary for inspiration and help. We ask her to pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death, so that God's grace and love that embraced Mary from the first moment of her existence would also touch our lives.

Mary, she who would be the mother of God's son, was uniquely united with God from the first instant of her existence: her conception. Nothing less would be appropriate. God smiled on her in a special way. She was born into his favour in a manner no other human had ever been, or would ever be!

Any degree of alienation from God in the bearer of God is unthinkable. So too any form of bodily decay in the body that bore that life is equally unthinkable. The Immaculate Conception and the Assumption complement each other as logical extensions within a framework of faith

What was said to Mary in today's gospel reading is said to all of us: 'The Lord is with you.' Mary was completely open to the Lord's presence to her. The season of truthful, upright, emphatic. At stake is right relationship. John is direct and emphatic in calling us to right relationship with God and one another. calls on us to be as open to the Lord's presence as Mary was, to be as responsive to his call as she was.

St. John the Baptist

We use the word "straight" in many ways: set the record straight, get this straight, look me straight in the eye. All these phrases essentially mean the same thing: be direct, correct, Are our relationships marred by the unevenness of being moody, the crookedness of dishonesty, the uppityness of being haughty, the lowness of self-depreciation, the roughness of vulgarity? John's call to repentance challenges us to examine our behaviours and our relationships with God, self and others. Only through repentance – genuine building of right relationships – will we "see the salvation of God." (Source: Living Liturgy)

Fr Michael Carey

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

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

Next Sunday at 10:00 AM Mass we will have the a 'Do This in Memory' liturgy for the children from Holywell ETNS preparing for their Frist Holy Communion. We will have a Drynam Pastoral Team Meeting on Tuesday 11th December at 8:00PM.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Aileen Marron	Longlands
Ann Walsh	Applewood



The Lambay Singers will perform their Christmas concert in St Colmcille's church on Sunday 16th December at 5pm. The programme will feature a variety of seasonal pieces including the works of Mendelssohn, Holst and Britten. Tickets €10 at the door. Merry Christmas!

Advent Wreath-week 2

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! "As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God's salvation.' (Luke 3:4-6)

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*



Christmas Draw

The Christmas draw was held last Sunday in the Parochial house. A big thank you to all who attended. It was a lovely afternoon. And I thank the hospitality team for the light refreshments. The tickets were 'drawn' in the presence of the Fundraising Committee and all who were present in the Parochial House for the occasion. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the Fundraising Committee who undertook this onerous task. They arranged for loads of things including: ticket sellers; setting up of the table, in order to sell tickets in the Church (*money changers in the Temple!*) and they arranged for ticket selling in JC's Supermarket, to whom I offer on behalf of the Parish a big 'thank you'. Thanks to all who sold the tickets in the Church and in JC's – this was a long stint and it is truly appreciated. Thank you also to the Ministry Teams who took books of tickets to sell to family and friends. Paddy Gerrard as usual did his 'bit' selling to all and sundry! Thanks to those who donated prizes: Kathleen Power for the beautiful a cake with fantastic icing; Total Produce for a lovely basket of fruit and JC's ; Dunnes Stores; Noel and Bernie Moore and Mona Murphy. Whilst I don't have the final figure to hand as I write this newsletter the income over expenditure in terms of surplus is circa **€3200**. Thank you so much.

Congratulation to Colette Stokes who won the 1st prize of €1000 and to Mary Kinsella who won the second prize of €250. Congratulations to the other winners:

Gabrielle Feehan; Grace Lynch; Lily McKittrick; Susan Watson; Liam Molloy;

Daniel Moroney; Gretta O'Morchu; Marie Moffit and Barbara Keeley

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BOUGHT THE TICKETS!

Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Jesse Tree

Once again I thank John Walsh who again supplied the lovely Jesse Tree for St. Colmcille's. It is a lovely feature of the Advent Season

Advent Wreath

The beautiful Advent Wreath involved much work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney

Garda Vetting

To date 104 Ministry Team members and Volunteers, in Swords and Drynam have been successfully Garda Vetted. This is wonderful and I thank all for their patience and co-operation.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)The PPC will meet on Monday 10th December at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Liturgy GroupThe Liturgy Group will meet on Tuesday 11th December at 8.00pm in the Parochial House



CAROL SERVICE - St Colmcille's Church TODAY @5.00pm



The Parish Community is delighted to announce that, having missed last year, the Annual Carol Service again takes place on Sunday 9 Dec 2018, at the **later time of 5pm**. Under the direction of our Choir Director, Morgan Crowley, changes have been introduced to make the programme more invigorating and interesting. These include solo performances by small groups and individuals adding to the Choir's wonderful harmonies, but popular seasonal carols are still included. We would ask you to support our Choir by attending and bringing your family and friends to this wonderful presentation of the great seasonal carols. *Note that the start time is an hour later at 5pm*

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - TODAY

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place **this** weekend on w/end of **December 8TH/9TH**. It will be the second collection replacing Share.

Members of the local Conference will speak at all Masses and will address the issue of the spiralling number of families in our Parish who are finding themselves on the 'breadline'. The Conference depends on your generosity to meet requests for assistance for these families. We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year.

Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)

JESSE TREE-week 2

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom' (Is 11.7). The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. Today is the second Sunday in Advent and we now add three more symbols to the Jesse tree in both our churches.

Star of David

Jesus was born into the house of David, the great king of Israel. This symbol also reminds us of the star the magi followed to find the baby Jesus

Jacobs Ladder

Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Jesus opened the gates of heaven kingdom for all of us

David's Crown

David was King of Israel for many years, and it was promised that the Messiah would come from the house of David. Because Joseph became Mary's husband. Jesus was born into the house of David

