

The incarnation shows us the unprecedented realism of divine love. The action of God, in fact, is not limited to words, indeed we might say, He is not content only to speak, but is immersed in our history and takes on the fatigue and weight of human life.”
The Pope finished his address by examining the link between the Old and New Testaments. He said “the opening of St. John’s Gospel clearly points to the creation story from the beginning of Genesis. Jesus is the new Adam and in this child, the Son of God contemplated at Christmas, we can recognise the true face, not only of God, but the true face of humanity. Only by opening ourselves to the action of his grace and trying each day to follow him, do we realise the plan of God for us, for each one of us”

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

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| Mon 10.00am Paddy McEvoy | Sat 10.00am Dec members of Keaney Family |
| Tues 10.00am Maureen Greer | Sat 6.30pm Annie, Eileen & Patrick O’Rourke |
| Wed 10.00 Harry Bond | |
| Thurs 10.00am Margaret Comber | Sun 8.30am Mary McQuillan |
| Thurs 6.30 Bridget & John McNulty | Sun 11.00am Frances Grace |
| Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead | |
| Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead | Sun 6.30pm Ellie McDonnell |

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am
Happy New Year to all! Please join us for a cup of tea or coffee after Mass today. There will be a Fundraising Committee meeting on Tuesday evening 3rd January at 8:00PM.

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

The Season of Christmas ends with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (8th Jan). As the season draws to an end, the solemnity of the Epiphany offers an opportunity to proclaim the centrality of Christ’s paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life.
Know, dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God’s mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

- On the first day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten Season.
- On the sixteenth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- On the twenty-eighth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- On the fourth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.
- On the eighteenth day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- On the third day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ to whom be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen (Source: Liturgical Ordo)



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Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Peace on Earth



“Silence is always more eloquent than words”. (Amoris Laetitia 12)”

Newsletter Sunday 1st January 2017

One of the things we always associate with Christmas is peace. Christ is referred to as the Prince of Peace. At His birth the angels sang: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.’ These are some of the loveliest words in the Gospel. You could say that they sum up the Gospel. Today, the 1st January, the first day of the New Year of Our Lord 2017, marks the world day of peace

What kind of peace are we talking about? Sometimes what we call peace is not really peace at all. Peace is not merely the absence of war or dissension. That is a negative peace. The peace we are talking about here is something positive.

The Hebrew word for peace is *Shalom*. Shalom conveys a sense of completeness, a state of perfect ‘well being.’ It is a summary of all the blessings of the messianic age. This is the peace Jesus brings.

An essential component of peace is righteousness. Where there is no righteousness, there is no genuine peace. Hence, there can be no peace for the wicked.

Justice is another vital component of peace. Peace is founded on justice. Any peace that is not founded on justice is a phoney peace. So, if we want peace, we must work for justice.

Peace is not the same as tranquillity. Tranquillity is external. Peace is internal. Peace results when we trust in God, and when the desire to please God is the dominant thing in our life. This is something we can have even in the midst of turmoil, conflict and unresolved problems. It is independent of outer circumstances.

Peace is a state of inner serenity, and designates right relations with God and with people. Peace in this complete sense cannot be created by human effort alone. It is a gift of God. It is the gift of Christmas.

God reaches out to us in peace, and wants us to reach out to one another. Peace is God’s gift to us; our gift to God is to make peace with one another. Christmas is a marvellous opportunity to mend quarrels and heal rifts.

In the final analysis, peace is communion with God. At Christmas God seems to be very close to us and very loving towards us. At Christmas God gives us a taste of the peace that passes all understanding, a peace this world cannot give, a peace no one can take from us.
(Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB)

Fr. Michael Carey

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - Hail, Mother Mary, who gave birth to the King

Happy New Year

On behalf of myself, Fr. Peter; Fr. Pat; the Parish Sisters; the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam a peaceful and happy New Year.



Planned Giving

New planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church

A New Year's Blessing

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, we thank you for your gift of time.

Let us embrace time as Mary did, as the experience of the unfolding of your plan of salvation.

We measure time with calendars and watches. You experience it as an ever-present "now."

Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months, of holydays and holidays, of feast and fasts, and all our special days of remembering.

Please bless these instruments with which we measure time. Let them remind us that you are the master of time as we dedicate this New Year to you.

Lord, bless this New Year, each of its days and nights. Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2017
Grant that it will be a year of love and peace.



Parish Office

The Office is closed for the Christmas Holidays and will re-open on Tuesday 3rd January

New Year's Resolutions

New Year's resolutions are too often made simply as fodder for jokes with the assumption that they won't last. Our celebration of the Christmas mystery, however asks of us a response that is more than a half-hearted resolution. We cannot afford to take lightly our encounter with this mystery and its power to make a real difference in how we live.

Weekday Mass

During the Christmas Season there will be a daily 10.00am morning Mass. The 8.00am is cancelled/suspended from Monday 26th December until Thursday 5th January inclusive. It will resume on Friday 6th January – the Feast of the Epiphany

To Ponder Mysteries

Myriads of people come and go throughout our lives. Some of them barely break through our consciousness; others have a profound effect on who we are and how we live. But none ought to have such a profound effect on us as Jesus. The one who models this for us is Mary. And like Mary, we are to ponder mysteries we do not understand and come to know Jesus more deeply. Like Mary, we are to proclaim the goodness of God and come to know God's blessings. Like Mary, we are to praise God and come to know our own glory.
(Source: Living Liturgy)

Feast of the Epiphany

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows:

St. Colmcille's:

Thursday 5th Jan (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Friday 6th Jan 8.00am and 10.00am

Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam

Friday 6th Jan 9.20am



The Epiphany of the Lord

In our deepest selves, each of us is a mystery: Where do I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? How should I live? The risk in our present culture is to sleepwalk through life, to be satisfied with a merely material existence. But the human "project" is much greater. Each of us is really on a pilgrimage, or better on a quest – a quest to become my true self, in image and likeness of God. My truest self is found by being open to God, in whom we live and move and have our being. By following that star, by listening to our conscience and our inner selves, we come home to God.

Prayer - You are the mystery at the heart all that exists: draw us to yourself, O Lord, that knowing you we find our true selves, and finding our true selves, we may come to know you. *(Source: St. Paul's Missal)*