

In that, the main authors of the New Testament were privileged witnesses. For **St. Paul**, the sacraments are a way of living out the Pascal Mystery. They link us with Christ's death in order to make us partakers in his resurrection. For **St Matthew**, the sacramental rites have been given by Jesus the Christ as a sign of his presence in the church. The forgiveness of sins is associated with baptism and the eucharist. For **St. Luke**, it is the Holy Spirit which accompanies the work of the church and makes it fruitful. For **St. John**, baptism and the eucharist make us partakers of the true life, that of the Word which came among us to reveal the Father and lead us towards him.

The sacraments are effective because they express the life of the Christian community, they express our life of faith – they awaken and provoke our faith and it is a journey of life like the pilgrims on the road to Emmaus. *(taken from the book How to Understand the Sacraments by Philippe Beguerie and Claude Duchusneau)*

Fr. Michael Carey Adm.

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

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| Mon 8.00am Mrs Scott | Sat 10.00am Noreen Finn |
| Mon 10.00am dec members of Toolan Family | Sat 6.30pm Cathal & Mary O'Toole |
| Tues 8.00am Special Intention | Sun 8.30 am Nancy McDonnell |
| Tues 10.00am Colm Wynne | Bartle McDonnell |
| Wed 8.00am John Scott | Sun 10.00am Dec members of Nathan Family |
| Wed 10.00 am Michael Savage | Sun 11.30 Fran Hearly |
| Thurs 8.00am Michael & Kathleen Ferris | Sun 7.30pm Jimmy Devine |
| Thurs 10.00am Teresa Barker | Deborah Rafferty |
| Fri 8.00 Altar list of the Dead | |
| Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead | |

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM
Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri:9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am
(Irish)& 12 noon

Come in for a quick cup of tea or coffee after Mass today in the Church Hall, now through our new direct entrance from the Church!



The Month of November

We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord.

Mass of Remembrance

On Thursday 13th November at 7.30pm, the Parish will celebrate Mass to remember and pray for all parishioners and friends who died during the past year. During this Mass each person will be remembered by name. All welcome especially family and friends. If you have a family member who died during the past year and would like their name called out please contact Colette in the Parish Office before Wednesday 5th November

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary invite all auxiliary members to attend the 34th anniversary Mass for the Servant of God, Frank Duff on Saturday 15th November at 3pm in St Mary's Pro-Cathedral Malborough St Dublin.

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



The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed – All Souls
Do we need the sacraments in order to be a Christian Community?

“Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”



Newsletter Sunday 2nd November 2014

Christians are scattered in the world, where ‘they live in the same houses as other people, carry the same trades, wear the same clothes as everyone else’ (2nd Century writer). They are only recognizable as Christians when they have the courage to demonstrate in their own lives their faith in the Lord Jesus. To confess one’s faith in the Lord Jesus does not prevent one from leading the same life as other people, but it means leading it in a different way, just as Jesus lived his human life, yet in a completely new way. ‘If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold the new has come’ (2. Cor. 5:17).

Of the seven sacraments we place the eucharist at the centre as the sacrament of the body of Christ, as the sacrament of the church. When the community meets around the Lord’s table it becomes visible. Christians do not use sacraments to enrich themselves. They are put by them into the position of servants. We do not receive Christ, in order to keep him, but to give him to the world. When I forgive my brother or sister, I become the sacrament of forgiveness; I unveil the face of God who forgives, as Jesus himself did. The sacraments are a revelation of God, the presence of God in our affairs. So back to our question, ‘Do we need the sacraments in order to be a Christian Community?’ Well every sacrament is the presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. Every sacrament makes us point to the Holy Spirit as the source of what we do. Every sacrament puts us at the service of our brothers and sisters and in that, they contribute to the salvation of the world. The first Christians demonstrate the validity of the title of this week’s newsletter. On the day after Pentecost the new Christian community which had just been born did not find itself the possessor of the seven sacraments as we know them, they did not even have the word sacrament – if you like, they were uncovered, they ‘bubbled up’ to the surface over a period of time.

The first Christian community in Jerusalem

‘So those who welcomed his message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Life in the first Christian community

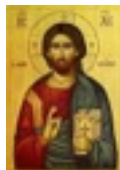
Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved ‘. (Acts 2: 41-47)

In conclusion

From the beginnings, the first Christian communities lived with the riches of the sacramental realities. Each one had its own way of speaking of their importance; in this way they were calling to mind the heritage which their Master had entrusted to them.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “I am the Resurrection and the Life says the Lord. Whoever believes in me will, even though he dies, will live”



November Dead List

A sincere thank you to all who delivered the ‘Altar Lists of the Dead’ to the households of the Parish. Thank you to all who have returned their altar list of the dead. If you didn’t receive your envelope, there are some in the book racks at the back of the church. The Mass is ‘offered’ for all names on these lists on the First Friday of every month and the lists will be in the Sanctuary area in front of the altar for the month of November.

Confirmation Classes

We are trying out a new Parish initiative for the Confirmation classes. Too often Confirmation is seen as a ‘rite of passage’ from the church. The Catholic Christian faith offers a powerful support to young people as they struggle with the great pressures of modern life. But they need every encouragement to hold on to and cherish their faith. The school and the Parish are making special efforts to prepare for and to celebrate our young people’s Confirmation. In order to begin to understand the Sacrament of Confirmation they and indeed ourselves must first understand what it means to belong to a Community of Faith, and that takes time. That in part is what this new initiative is about. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. To that end next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I know you will make them welcome and we look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: For surely I know the plans I have for you” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”– Jer. 29:11-14

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. Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing Ministry which helps resolve grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Next residential weekend will be held **14th – 16th November** in All Hallows, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. Please contact 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up next weekend at all Masses

Columban Missionary Sisters Christmas Fair, will take place on Thursday 13th November -9.30am - 6.30pm in Parish Centre, St. Agnes Road, Crumlin
Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 9 Listopad, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan’s Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

Thank you from St Columba’s Church

‘On my own behalf and on behalf of the Parish of St. Columba’s to say thank you and all in Brackenstown, River Valley & Swords Parishes for the very generous donation to St. Columba’s Church Restoration Fund.

It is so very kind of you all, and as you might guess such generosity will contribute a much needed boost to the restoration appeal itself, let alone its funds. But more chiefly, as I tried to share on Thursday evening, these donations mean so much more than Euro and Cent – they express the sense we are not alone, and that there is solidarity behind the restoration.

Thank you for the spirit with which the donations have been made, for your generous support, and I ask you please to pass on our appreciation to all. **’Rev’d Canon Robert Deane.**

All Saints – Nov 1st

Yesterday we celebrated the community of faith, being in communion with all the saints, a day of both thanksgiving and vision. Thanksgiving, because of the example and inspiration of the saints, who have come to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ (Ep 4:13). Vision because our Gospel today describes the path we must take to make the same journey home to God. If we wish to join the saints both

now and into eternity, we must make our own the “mission statement” of Jesus, which is the Sermon on the Mount and especially the opening invitation to true happiness.

Prayer - Jesus, you are our teacher within and today we ask your help. Just as you have brought our brothers and sisters to full maturity in you, so also guide us and be with us as we walk your Way. By your grace, may we too be counted among saints in the present moment and in the life to come.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed – Nov 2nd

To remember our beloved dead in the presence of God is wholesome and it is natural to remember them in love and thanksgiving. We thank God for the gifts bestowed on us through them – signs of his grace and presence. We entrust our beloved to the love and mercy of God because, even though we do not grieve as those who have no hope (1 Th 4:13), to remember the dead is holy and devout (2 Mac 12:45). All they have meant for us is not lost forever, for God – the God of the living – is their life now and always.

Prayer - O God, to you all are alive (Lk 20:38). Confident of your great love and mercy, we entrust all our beloved dead to you, Father of us all. May they rise in Christ, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Feasts this week

St. Malachy, Bishop of Armagh – Monday 3rd November, 1094-1148. In 1142 he founded the monastery of Mellifont, the first Cistercian house in Ireland

St. Charles Borromeo, bishop – Tuesday 4th November, 1538-84, nephew of Pope Pius IV and created Cardinal Archbishop of Milan at the age of twenty-one. He worked for reform in the diocese, drafting the Catechism of the Council of Trent. Patron saint of catechists and seminarians

All the Saints of Ireland – Thursday 6th November. Ireland, especially in the early Christian centuries, was known as an isle of saints and scholars. Many of these combined pastoral care with observance of the monastic life. The Irish also did much to bring the faith to other parts of Europe and, if we are to believe the story of St. Brendan, even further afield.