

way to new life and indeed a sense of the resurrection, there was hope, there were others who cared, such as Trocaire and the Church, there were new opportunities presented that could shape the future, healing bereavement, practical support and a challenging of perceptions and prejudice. Although this is going to take time, at least the seeds had been sown and would please God, blossom for others too. We left that day, having shaken the hands of all the villagers and I looked back through the windows of the jeep as they made their way to the harvesting on the land, and hoped for them and admired them and continue to pray for the healing and resurrection they and so many others deserve.

We are called to be agents of change, a resurrection people but we cannot have resurrection without the cross. May we hold on to the light, cling to Christ and sow the seeds of new life that can change the course of another, after all as a Jesuit priest told me many some time ago, "You may be the only Gospel that people will ever read". (*Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2018*).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Michael Coady	Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer
Mon 10.00am Ellen Greene	
Tues 8.00am Special intention	Sat 6.30pm Bernadette & Jim McConville & Anna Walsh
Tues 10.00am Joe Hatch	Sun 8.30am Special intention
Wed 8.00am Special Intention	
Wed 10.00am William & Ann Cummins	Sun 11.00 Patrick Larmon
Thurs 8.00am Patricia Keane	
Thurs 10.00am Geraghty & McGreevy Families	Sun 6.30pm Gerry Byrne
Fri 8.00am Special Intention	
Fri 10.00am Patrick & Ann Walshe	

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

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

We will have a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting at 8:00PM on Tuesday 13th March.

Happy Mother's Day

Dear Jesus we thank you for mothers everywhere
 For all who care for us day by day,
 Let us not forget that you were a child
 And your mother was Mary.
 We say thank you for mums across the world
 And in our country too,
 Although we may not say it
 We think you are the best. So let us give grateful thanks
 And let our voices be heard.
 For all Mums and Grans
 On this very special day. Amen (*Helen Middleton 2005*)



Accommodation required in the Swords area or near Dublin airport

A young Italian woman is looking for accommodation of a rented room in a family home in the Swords area or close to Dublin airport. She is about to begin a training course with Aer Lingus. She is fluent in English and in other languages and she comes from a very religious background. Any response to this enquiry would be greatly appreciated please phone Fr. Leo McDonald (Limerick Cathedral) at 0872200366 for further information. Thank you

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



4th Sunday of Lent

The seeds had been sown

“Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her”

Newsletter Sunday 11th March 2018

Concluding the Trocaire reflections for Lent, Fr. Martin

O’Hagan, Trócaire Diocesan Representative for the Down&Connor Diocese and Newtownards and Comber Parish, who travelled with Trócaire to Sierra Leone in November 2017, writes the following

I will never forget the kaleidoscope of colour, the intense sense of industry as we snaked our way through Freetown, all intent, all on a mission, the sounds, the haggling on the street, goods being carried precariously on heads, children coming home from school and more besides. There was a sense of ordered frenzy and yet familiar sights of the every day. We too as a small group were on a mission making our way to community of Ebola survivors, and I must say I was very apprehensive as we had seen the scale of what had happened and the impact on the country of Sierra Leone. We gradually left the frenetic and came to the place of meeting. At first the community were nowhere to be seen, just a few were present and the rest of the community were harvesting. I wondered what would happen next and hoped for their return and soon they did, one by one a representative group assembled under the embracing branches of a vibrant tree, well rooted. This was to be one of many experiences in Sierra Leone that would imprint on my memory. We sat together and the Sierra Leone partner of Trocaire spoke on our behalf. We listened to their story and all I keep remembering was the expressionless look on the faces of the people, young and slightly older, traumatised, only surviving, bereaved, isolated. I felt helpless in the midst of the telling of the story of how they as a community had lost loved ones, bread winners, providers who had shaped their lives. All I could do was reach into my experience of my own personal bereavement and what I have witnessed in Parish life. In the midst of this pain and how Ebola had decimated loved ones on so many levels, I was searching desperately for signs of hope and indeed resurrection.

Suddenly a young man stepped forward and we asked him some questions about their experience of Ebola. I was impressed by his wonderful ability to express the feelings of others, to be honest he was prophet- like and had clearly reflected well on what had happened to them all, the devastation was very clear and their hopes had been dashed. What was all the more shocking was the fact that now, they as a community, were stigmatised and kept at a distance because of their association with the disease. I was horrified by this experience of rejection, as if the Ebola had already brought enough chaos. Then I thought about this man's vision and I asked about his hopes for the future and if he would work with Trocaire on other projects that would bring new life and a new beginning, and he said that he would. "You strike me" I said "as someone who has reflected well on all that has happened to you and your family and as a person who could take the lead in shaping the future". There was a clear gift here in the witness, a new opportunity to harness the hopes and dreams of a young man that could change the direction of the community along with others. My paralysis in facing the harshness of the Ebola, began to heal and give



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*



Confirmation Mass - last

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

Towards the Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

Choose Life 2018 is a weekly newsletter www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018. The sixth edition is on that website now. There are some copies on the table at the back of the Church.

Church teaching The unborn child is a person There is no moment as significant as the moment of conception in terms of defining the beginning of personal existence. Everything else is simply the process of growth and development of a person who has already embarked on the wonderful journey of life. It is illogical to consider a newborn child to be a person deserving human rights and, on the other hand, an unborn child to be a non-person undeserving of human rights. For Christians, there is no conflict between faith and reason. Reason leads us to recognise the continuity of human life, from conception to natural death, and faith allows us to see each person as having their origin in God and their fulfilment in eternal life.

Fingal for Life, a local pro-life group, are holding two information evenings on why it is essential to save the 8th Amendment.

The first one will be in St. Brigid's Parish Centre, Rolestown, **8.00pm, Tuesday 13th March**. Speakers include Caroline Simons, Pro Life Campaign and Fr. William R. Dailey, Notre Dame lecturer in law.

The second evening will be in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, at 7.45pm, **Tuesday 20th March**. Speakers include David Quinn, Journalist and Director of Iona Institute and Niamh Ní Bhriain, Director of Life Institute.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 12th March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **this** weekend at all Masses

Crosscare: The Annual Collection for Crosscare Youth Services - Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will be at all Masses next weekend 17th 18th March. It will replace the normal Share Collection

Bethany Bereavement Support Group will meet on Monday at 7.30pm in the Parochial House Seatown Road

Saint Patrick - Patron of Ireland

It would no doubt take the modest St Patrick by surprise to know how widely his feast is celebrated and marked! We know something of the man himself from the few documents which have come down to us. His return to those who enslaved him shows great character; even more outstanding is his commitment to Jesus Christ, the Scriptures (*his writings are full of allusions*), and to his calling as apostle and evangelist. The spark of faith has shone among the Irish, sometimes brightly, sometimes dimly, ever since. Let us mark the feast with thanksgiving and renewed faith.

Prayer - Father, you brought the Gospel to life among the Irish by the preaching of the great St Patrick. Help us rediscover again the spark of faith, that it may shine brightly once more among us.

Feast of St. Patrick- Mass times

Saturday next 17th March is the Feast of St. Patrick, a holy day of obligation. Masses times are. Swords: 6.30pm (Vigil-Friday) and 8.30am and 11.00am (Saturday). Drynam: 9.20am



Rosary at the MASS ROCK For LIFE and FAITH

Sunday March 18th at 2:30pm .Itinerary and Meeting Points (approximate times):

- Meet at St. Finian's Church, River Valley, at 2.15pm.
- Depart on foot at 2.30pm through the Valley.
- Continue to Glasmore Abbey (The Nunnery) for 3.00pm.
- Walk back to St. Cronan's Church for 3.20pm.
- Walk to St. Colmcille's Well for 3.50pm.
- Walk to St. Colmcille's Church for 4.15pm.

Led by Fr. Paul Thornton. For more information call Aoife on Tel: 085-1797278 or Ann on Tel: 087-054 4882. <https://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie/>

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are hosting parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes.

Conversation 1:

Tuesday 13th March in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre on from 8pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday 14th in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Thursday 15th in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

Conversation 2:

Tuesday 20th March in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre on from 8pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday 21st in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Thursday 22nd in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!

Amoris
Let's talk Family! Let's be Family!

