

I have to say immediately that going around the most deprived areas of this diocese I am also really inspired by the number of young teachers – many of them graduates of this College – who on graduation opt as their first choice to go to schools in deprived areas. They have understood what education in a fractured and an unequal culture is about..... As Christians who work in the area of education, we are not there to teach just abstract doctrine or a cold ideology or to be campaigners for our own narrow interests alone. We are called to be witnesses to the Spirit...

The Catholic school must be a place where the presence of the Spirit can be sensed.... The Catholic school must be a community that witnesses to the power of the Spirit to overcome anxiety and fear and accompany those entrusted to our care on a passage to true hope and peace.

Catholic education will find true recognition in society not just by campaigning for a privileged place but when it really becomes a beacon in society of the Spirit who cares.

We live in a world where many young people are troubled and at times so troubled as to abandon hope....

A Catholic school is not just an archive of baptismal certificates and admission certs, but above all one that should reflect what the wonderful reality of baptism means. Through baptism, all are recognised. as children of the one God, with the same opportunities and aspirations and hopes to realise the unique dignity that belongs to each of them.

That is what education is about and for a Catholic school to do less would be a betrayal of the work of the Spirit.”

*Fr. Michael Carey*

**Mass Intentions this Sunday**

**Sat 6.30pm** John & Brendan Clarke (An)

**Sun 8.30am** Bridget O’Toole(An)

**Sun 11.15am** Patrick & Bridget Lenehan



**Mass intentions for Next Week**

**Mon** 10.00am Christopher Barnwell

**Tues** 8.00am Vincent Lynch Jnr

**Tues** 10.00am Michael & Kathleen Dennis

**Wed** 8.00am

**Wed** 10.00am Kathleen Callis

**Thurs** 8.00am

**Thurs** 10.00am Michael Farrell

**Thurs** 6.30pm Owen Kennedy

**Fri** 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

**Fri** 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

**Next Sunday**

**Sat** 10.00am Altar list of the Dead

**Sat** 6.30pm Richard Dillon

**Sun** 8.30am The Sisters in Brackenstown

Intentions

**Sun** 11.15am Patricia O’Reilly

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

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

Next Sunday at 10:00AM Mass in Drynam, we will commence the ‘Do This In Memory’ programme for the children of Holywell ETNS preparing for First Holy Communion.



**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**

**Facebook:**

**St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Catholic Schools - A community that witnesses to the power of the Spirit**



*“Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice”*

Newsletter Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Over the past few weeks, schools have been putting in place new ‘Boards of Management’ (BoM, that have a four year term. Members of the BoM’s give their time for ‘free’ and it is a wonderful commitment. Each BoM is comprised of eight members – two Patron’s representatives, two Parent’s representatives, two Teachers, one of whom is the Principal and two Community representatives. I’d like to take this opportunity of thank the outgoing BoM’s of our two parish schools St. Colmcille’s GNS and BNS. They have been marvellous boards who have done a wonderful job and we now have new excellent boards to replace them.

I thank the outgoing Chairpersons Ms. Veronica McDermott and Ms Brid Mhic Gearailt (BNS) and Mr David Begg (GNS) and thank David and Brid who will continue on as Chairpersons for the coming duration of the new BoM’s. I also thank our excellent school principals Ms. Ciara Brangan (BNS) and Ms Karen Bourke Logue (GNS) who are central to the BoM’s and of course to the day to day running of our excellent parish schools.

I’d like to continue this newsletter with an extract from the Archbishop’s homily given at DCU at Saint Patrick’s College, Drumcondra which marked the opening of the current school year.

“The beginning of the new School Year offers us a moment to look beyond the many day-to-day concerns that we encounter and struggle with and reflect more deeply on the basic role of education within our changing Ireland.....

It would be wrong to make blanket statements of criticism about our Irish educational system. We have achieved much and we have much to be proud of. All of us gathered here today are committed to ensuring that all the children of Ireland today and tomorrow may belong to an educational community that respects them and offers them what they need to flourish.

However, our educational village is still very much a village marked by inequality. We have wonderful schools but we also have schools which are under resourced and in poor condition. As Archbishop, going around this diocese, I encounter both. The best schools are those really rooted in their community. I am especially concerned when I find schools in poorer communities with poor facilities. I am concerned about certain groups who experience educational disadvantage. I think of the situation of children with autism. Their educational needs require an injection of new resources. Traveller children are still at a disadvantage.

### 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*



#### **Commitment ceremony - 2019**

Tús maith is ea leath na hoibre – well done to the girls and boys from St Colmcille's GNS and BNS who celebrated their Commitment Ceremony last week.

I thank their class teachers Ms. Farrington and Ms. Leddy (GNS) Ms. Gavin and Ms. Taylor and Principals Ms. Karen Bourke Logue (GNS) and Ms Ciara Brangan (BNS) for their excellent preparation

#### **Do This in Memory –Bridge Programme**

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

#### **Mass of Remembrance**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 a family member of friend died during this past year but whose funeral was held in another parish and you would like their name called out. Please leave with Colette in the Parish Office.*



#### **Mission Sunday**

Thank you for your prayers and generosity towards World mission Sunday last weekend. The amount collected was €1,448. Your kindness means so much. It will help missionaries and struggling communities to form and sustain communities of hope and faith. Please know that your continued kindness towards World Mission Sunday makes transformative differences to the lives of people who are suffering. Thank You

#### **Feast of All Saints**

Friday next 1<sup>st</sup> November is the Feast of All Saints, a holy day of obligation. Masses are as follows. Swords: 6.30pm (Vigil-Thursday) and 8.00am and 10.00am (Friday). Drynam: 9.20am (Friday)

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October is a Bank Holiday. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am.  
*There is no 8.00am Mass*

#### **The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed - 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

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. This day also known as 'All Souls Day' is celebrated on November 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Family Mass**

This is an initiative of the Parish Pastoral Council. St. Colmcille's Church are planning to celebrate a Family Mass, **once a quarter**. A Family Mass is not a 'Children's Mass'. Rather it is a Mass that would involve volunteers, parents and children in the preparation for this Mass which would be at the Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass. It is not the 'Do This in Memory Mass' that we have for the First Communion Children. As to what it would be like – think of a combination of the 'Confirmation Masses and the 'Do This in Memory Masses'. We have the leaders for this new initiative but we need as I said volunteers, parents and children to get involved.

If interested, then please talk to me or leave contact information in the Parish Office. As it will involve working with children, Garda Vetting will be required for all adult volunteers. We are planning to have the first Family Mass in January 2020.

#### **PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS**

There will be a bus leaving the Star Pub, Swords on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30 a.m. for Emmanuel House Clonfert to pray for the Holy Souls, led by EDDIE STONES. If interested Tel. Nora 8404247 ALL ARE WELCOME

#### **Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.**

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at - The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." **Date of next meeting 4th November** - (no meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October). Further information please phone Terri 8403243.

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently**  
James Kerrigan  
Rathbeale Road

