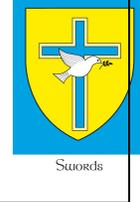


Swords - St. Colmcille's / Dynam - Our Lady of the Visitation

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at 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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL (Part 1)***"Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me"***Newsletter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

The Pope has very recently written a document called "Evangelii Gaudium" - The Joy of the Gospel. Over the next three weeks I will summarise 'a summary' of this document. The document is written around the theme of Christian joy in order that the Church may rediscover the original source of evangelization in the contemporary world. Before I go on, what is meant by Evangelisation?

- It is about bringing Jesus' name and message into people's lives as a message of salvation, a message which helps us rise above ourselves. It is finding the answer to the deeper questions of life, by rising to the heights of transcendence, revealed in the gratuitous love of Jesus.
- It is bringing people to Christ. God is the unknown God – we come to know him through Christ
- In short, to proclaim the "Good News" is the essence of evangelisation. In the Gospels, "the preaching of the Good News" is Jesus' self definition of his mission or purpose. 'To other towns I must announce the good news of the Kingdom of God, because that is why I was sent' (Lk.4: 42-43).

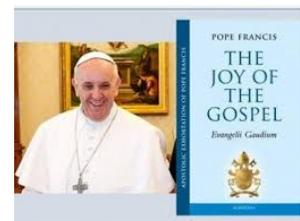
What the above understanding of Evangelisation in mind, what Pope Francis is doing is offering this document to the Church as a map and guide to her pastoral mission in the near future. It is an invitation to recover a prophetic and positive vision of reality without ignoring the current challenges. Pope Francis instills courage and urges us to look ahead despite the present crisis, making the cross and the resurrection of Christ once again our "victory banner". The Pope is calling on us to seize the moment of grace in which the Church is living in order to embrace with faith, conviction and enthusiasm a new phase in the journey of evangelization.

The Pope goes on to say that the Church is called to "go out" of herself in order to meet others. The Church does not find herself in a dead-end, but is following in the very footsteps of Christ (see. 1 Peter 2: 21). Thus the Church is certain of the path she must follow. She does not tread this path in fear since she knows that she is called "to go out in search of those who are far from her and arrive at the crossroads in order to invite those who are excluded. She is filled with an unlimited desire to offer mercy. In order for this to occur, Pope Francis again stresses the need for "pastoral conversion". The existence of -stagnant and stale pastoral practices obliges us, therefore, to be boldly creative in order to rethink evangelization.

It is necessary, therefore, "to concentrate on what is essential", thereby avoiding the danger of presenting the faith only in the light of some moral questions as if these could stand apart from the centrality of love. If we lose sight of this perspective, "the moral edifice of the Church runs the risk of becoming a house of cards, and this is our biggest danger". So there is a strong appeal from the Pope to find a healthy balance between the content of the faith and the language in which it is expressed.

**Some quotes from *Evangelii Gaudium* – The Joy of the Gospel**

**Service:** Let us try a little harder to take the first step and to become involved. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. The Lord gets involved and he involves his own, as he kneels to wash their feet. He tells his disciples: "You will be blessed if you do this"



(Jn 13:17) ... Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice. (24).

**Our church doors** should always be open, so that if someone, moved by the Spirit, comes there looking for God, he or she will not find a closed door. (47)

**The Eucharist**, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. These convictions have pastoral consequences that we are called to consider with prudence and boldness. Frequently, we act as arbiters of grace rather than its facilitators. But the Church is not a tollhouse; it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems. (47).

*Fr. Michael Carey Adm*

**Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille’s:**

**Mon** 8.00 am Elizabeth Leamy

**Sat 6.30pm** Patrick & Mary Kate Gallagher  
Paddy Woods

**Mon** 10.00am John Joe Bambrick

**Tues** 8.00 am Dec members of Fayne Family

**Sun 8.30am** Kathleen & Ernest McMahon

**Tues** 10.00 am Des Becton

**Sun 10.00am** Nancy, Jack & Dan Doyle

**Wed** 8.00am Sean Melia

**Sun 11.30am** James & Brigid Howard

**Wed** 10.00am Tom Kennedy

**Sun 7.30pm** Johnny & Peggy Reid

**Thurs** 10.00am Des Becton

**Fri** 8.00am Margaret Byrne

**Fri** 10.00am Bernie Campbell

**Sat** 10.00am Joseph Coleman

**Reflection Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

It is clear already in the Old Testament that it is not our misdeeds which accuse us before God, but our hearts, fractured and divided as they are. Consistent with Israelite teaching, Jesus insists that we go deeper than our external deeds. The important question is what is going on in our hearts, the source of inner thoughts and motivations? The teaching is presented using various examples, presented sometimes

with great simplicity, other times with irony and wit.

**Prayer** - O God, you read our hearts and you know us even better than we know ourselves. Let us trust your knowledge of us and your call to true conversion of heart, for you desire only our good that we may be both whole and holy.

**ADMINISTRATOR’S COLUMN**

*Antiphon - “God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life” DO THIS IN MEMORY*



I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday 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.

**Book of Intentions**

At the back of the Church (St. Colmcille’s) is a ‘Book of Intentions’. I invite you to write prayer requests in it and a special ‘Prayer of the Faithful’ will be said every Sunday.

## **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

At the 10am Mass, in St. Colmcille's on this Saturday the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick – *see box below*

## **The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend**

This fund will provide for the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It also provides for all art and décor, banners and flowers etc. There are other expenses throughout the year, such as the printing of booklets, prayers, candles, postage stamps etc. As a Parish we are very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed volunteers; they give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Please give what you can to this fund to help us ensure that they have the best possible support in their ministries. This collection takes place in St. Colmcille's only. The collection dates for 2014 are: w/e 22nd/23rd Feb; 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> May; 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Aug and 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Two collectors for each weekend Mass would be required. If you volunteer for this task please leave your name with Stephanie**

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE:** To believe in a God means to realize that the facts of the world are not the whole story. To believe in a God means to realize that life has a meaning. ..Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951, Austrian Philosopher)

## **Accord**

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses this weekend 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> February. The collection will replace the usual Share collection

## **CURA**

To avail of Cura's crisis pregnancy support service see [www.cura.ie](http://www.cura.ie) or call 1850 622626

## **SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina**

### **Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday *Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014***

Adriatic Coast Chioggia is a quaint picturesque town on the Venetian lagoon about 25km south of Venice. It is in fact known as "Little Venice" because of its narrow streets, hump back canals and is completely unspoilt and full of character. A bridge leads to the neighbouring island of Sottomarina with its long sandy beaches bordering the Adriatic. This is where we will be based for the week

**Price: €870.00 per person sharing**

Price includes: Return flights Dublin-Venice 7 nights' accommodation : 4 star hotel; half board; B&B and Dinner., Day excursion to Venice by boat and day excursions to Ravenna and Padua

Extras: Single room supplement €25.00 per night for duration of stay Airport taxes: €85.00. baggage fee €40 Insurance: €36.00 (66+double premium applies)

**. Please contact Colette at the Parish Office for booking (€250 deposit per person).**

**Balance of €100 by the end of January and remainder 10 weeks before departure.**

**For more details telephone Colette: 8407277.**

**Brochures at back of**

**Church**

## **The Sacrament of the Sick**

February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is when the Church celebrates the 'World Day of the Sick'. On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10am the Parish will celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick in St. Colmcille's. All parishioners are welcome. It is an ideal opportunity to reach out to a housebound neighbour or a neighbour who has no means of transport and bring them to the church for this celebration.

'The World Day of the Sick is a call once again to all, to see in the face of their brother or sister who is sick the face of Christ who, suffering, dying and rising, brought salvation to humanity.' *Blessed John Paul II*

## **Fri 21 – Sun 23 February Stepping into a promise of a New Spring**

An opportunity through music , meditation , movement and spiritual awareness to ask the question "where are you now in life and where would you like to be?" **Venue:** Ards Friary, Creeslough, Co. Donegal. Commences: 9.30am .Concludes: after lunch , Cost: €125 Contact: Margaret Gallagher [074 9384015](tel:0749384015) Email:margaretdancing@yahoo.ie

## **A prayer for the end if the day**

Grant, O Lord, that each day  
before we enter the little death of sleep,  
we may undergo the little judgement of the past day,  
so that every wrong deed may be forgiven  
and every unholy thought set right.  
Let nothing go down into the depths of our being  
which has not been forgiven and sanctified.  
Then we shall be ready  
for our final birth into eternity,  
and look forward with love and hope  
to standing before you,  
who are both judge and saviour,  
holy judge and loving saviour. (Source: Flor McCarthy)

