

For the people of those times – and for us today as well – the dove is the symbol of peace and of love made visible.

We pray:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that I may think holy thoughts.

Move me, O Holy Spirit, that I may do holy deeds.

Attract me, O Holy Spirit, that I may love holy things.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, that I may nurture holiness.

Nurture me O Holy Spirit, that I may never lose holiness. Saint Augustine (354-430)

Finally we make the sign of the cross: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Fr Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Bernadette & John Keenan

Sat 10.00am **No Mass**

Mon 10.00am Philip Read

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am Eileen Penston & Kathleen O'Connor

Sat 6.30pm Jim Mulcahy

Wed 8.00am Special intention

Wed 10.00 Maura Coleman

Sun 8.30am Gerard Travers

Thurs 8.00am Health Intention

Thurs 10.00 Pat Whelan

Sun 11.00am Margaret Prendergast

Fri 8.00am Mary Greenan

Fri 10.00am Ann Yorke

Sun 6.30pm Richard Forbes

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon , Mon & Tues 9.20am

Today we congratulate the second group of children from Holywell Educate Together School who receive their First Holy Communion at 12:00 Mass



Ordinary Time

The Season of Easter has ended and in the Church's calendar we now revert to 'Ordinary Time', in fact the 7th weeks thereof. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

Youth 2000 Summer Festival, Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary from Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th July 2016. For young people aged 16-35, an opportunity not to be missed to experience the Catholic faith and meet many new people, with over 1000 young people from all corners of Ireland attending last year. The festival is donation only. Free buses available from all around Ireland. For more info and to book online, see www.youth2000.ie or phone 01 6753690

Blessing for Expectant Mothers:

A special blessing for Expectant Mothers will take place on Wednesday 18th May at 8.00pm in Our Lady of Mercy Church, Artane. If you are pregnant, we would love to see you there. If you need any further information contact: Kathleen: 01 8310917 or Eileen: 8319617.

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)
Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)
Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



The Feast of Pentecost

PENTECOST – FEAST OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world,
alleluia”*

Newsletter Sunday 15th May 2016



The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity. We cannot see him or touch him or point to him. Nor is he someone we can simply “conjure up” at will, for he is God and works mysteriously in the world and in human hearts. As Jesus says to Nicodemus, a teacher of the law in Israel: *“The wind blows wherever it pleases; you hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. That is how it is with all who are born of the Spirit”* (Jn.3:8).

But at the same time we can know and be aware of his presence. He is there whenever a person speaks of God in such a way that others come to faith; when someone suffers or gives their life for the Gospel; whenever someone experiences a sense of peace and joy, when he promotes justice or devotes himself selflessly to the service of others. He is there when two people settle a quarrel and are reconciled with each other; when someone has done wrong and makes amends for the damage done; when someone embittered by hatred begins to forgive and to love again; when someone who has only ever thought of herself/himself opens her/his eyes and begins to see the needs of others. He is there whenever someone begins to show concern for the animals and the plants, the water and the air – for all God's creation, so threatened by man....

St Paul tells us: **THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED INTO OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN US.** (Rom.5:5)

The Bible begins with the earliest origins of the world. At that time – before God spoke his first word – there was only a formless void, brooding waters, darkness, emptiness (Gen. 1:1-2). But God's Spirit moved over the waters of the deep – and there was life.

Through such images as these the sacred writers are expressing the fact that God is in all and above all that lives, grows and flourishes on earth. His Spirit is the proof that creation is never God-less. And therefore it is not the mercy of chance, still less of evil spirits.

We pray:

Lord, what variety you have created, arranging everything so wisely! Earth is completely full of things you have made: You give breath, fresh life begins, you keep renewing the world. Psalm 104: 24;30

One of the biblical teachers tells us how the life of Adam, the first man, began: God himself breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and the man became a living being. In other words all people – men, women and children – receive their life from the Life of God That is why they resemble God and can learn to know him and to do his will. They are made in his image. The symbols of the Holy Spirit are water, fire, cloud, breath and wind. He is sometimes compared to a dove, and also represented as such, since it was in the form of a dove that he appeared at the baptism of Jesus.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN



Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

1st Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS who received their first Holy Communion yesterday. Next Saturday, 22nd May at 11am, the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day. The Holy Communion Ceremony is at 11.00am. There is no 10.00am Mass this Saturday. More on this wonderful event in next week's newsletter.

Holy Well Educate Together – 1st Holy Communion

Congratulations to the second group of boys and girls from Holywell Educate Together school who will receive this Sunday their 1st Holy Communion at the 12 noon Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam. Thanks to Fr. Peter who presided at the ceremony and also a big thank you to Sr. Mary and the Drynam Pastoral Team who prepared the children for the Sacrament and also to the parents on the preparation Committee. **ALSO**

Congratulations to the three special needs children (Paulina; Dominik and Dylan) who received their 1st Holy Communion, on Saturday 7th May again in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam. Thanks to Fr. Philip Baxter OFM Cap who presided at the Mass and to Renata Behan who prepared the three for their big day.

Year of Mercy

The 14th paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - The Lord Jesus shows us the steps of the pilgrimage to attain our goal: “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back” (Lk 6:37-38). The Lord asks us above all not to judge and not to condemn. If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgement, he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister. Human beings, whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface, whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip. To refrain from judgement and condemnation means, in a positive sense, to know how to accept the good in every person and to spare him any suffering that might be caused by our partial judgment, our presumption to know everything about him. But this is still not sufficient to express mercy. Jesus asks us also to forgive and to give. To be instruments of mercy because it was we who first received mercy from God. To be generous with others, knowing that God showers his goodness upon us with immense generosity.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet tomorrow Monday 16th May at 8.00pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road

Parish Grouping

The PPC's of the three Parishes will meet in River Valley Parish on Thurs 19th May at 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd May

On this day the Parish is celebrating 1st Holy Communion. There will be no 10.00am Mass

Youth Services

The annual collection for CROSSCARE, Youth Services – Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses this weekend 14th/15th May. The collection will replace the usual Share collection

PENTECOST SUNDAY

In the Jewish calendar there was a tradition of celebrating the fiftieth day after Passover, which they called Pentecost. Today the Christian Church reaches the fiftieth and final day of the Easter season when we commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the scriptures the Spirit is also known as ‘the Spirit of the promise’, ‘the Spirit of adoption’, ‘the Spirit of the Lord’, ‘the Spirit of Christ’, ‘the Spirit of God’ and ‘the Spirit of Glory’.

Reflection - The Church is the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit. The mission of Christ and of the Spirit and now also of the Church is to bring humankind to share in the communion which Father, Son and Spirit share. It is the Spirit who makes present the mystery of Christ, particularly at the Eucharist in order to reconcile humanity and to bring them into relationship with God. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal.*)

A new language

On Pentecost day the apostles spoke a new language. What was this new language? It was the language of peace rather than war; the language of cooperation rather than of competition; the language of forgiveness rather than of vengeance; the language of hope rather than of despair; the language of tolerance rather than of bigotry; the language of friendship rather than of hostility; the language of unity rather than of division; the language of love rather than of hate.

Through the gift of the Spirit, people of different languages learned to profess one faith, to the praise and glory of God. That is the real miracle of Pentecost, and it is a miracle which, thankfully, still happens. (*Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB*)

The Bible's Most Important People

Ezra – An Israelite scribe and teacher of the law who returned from the Babylonian Exile along with some priests, Levites, temple servants, and other Israelites. Ezra had received the backing of King Artaxerxes of Persia and returned with money and the temple vessels. Ezra also had the right to appoint the magistrates and judges of Israel. When they reached Jerusalem, the officials told Ezra that many men of Israel had intermarried with the people around them and followed their ways. Ezra prayed for the people, read them the law, and called them to confess their sin.

Parish Office: The Parish office is closed and will re-open on Tuesday 24th May