

of the Crucified one for all. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew. On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty now exalted in glory. In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.

The Pontiff then continued saying that it is significant that, during the first apparition to Bernadette, Mary begins the encounter with the sign of the Cross. More than a simple sign, it is an initiation into the mysteries of the faith that Bernadette receives from Mary. The sign of the Cross is a kind of synthesis of our faith, for it tells how much God loves us; it tells us that there is a love in this world that is stronger than death, stronger than our weaknesses and sins. The power of love is stronger than the evil which threatens us. It is this mystery of the universality of God's love for men that Mary came to reveal here, in Lourdes. She invites all people of good will, all those who suffer in heart or body, to raise their eyes towards the Cross of Jesus, so as to discover there the source of life, the source of salvation. The Church has received the mission of showing all people this loving face of God, manifested in Jesus Christ. For on this Cross, Jesus took upon himself the weight of all the sufferings and injustices of our humanity. He bore the humiliation and the discrimination, the torture suffered in many parts of the world by so many of our brothers and sisters for love of Christ.

Finally this feast tells us of the Power, majesty and glory of the cross. It tells us of the benevolence of God who chose this instrument of the Cross which was a sign of shame and torture, has now been transformed into a symbol of our salvation.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week	Sat 10.00am Gerald Ryan
Mon 8.00am Darren Hand	
Mon 10.00am Parochial House Joe & Peggy Savage	
Tues 8.00am Joseph Keogh	Sat 6.30pm Gerry Coburn
Tues 10.00am Parochial House Patricia Greaney	
Wed 8.00am Jimmy Lennon	Sun 8.30am John McGrane
Wed 10.00am Parochial House Alice & Tom Keane	Sun 11.00pm Rosanna Casciani
Thurs 8.00am Get Well intention	
Thurs 10.00am Parochial House Nan Kerr	
Fri 8.00am Special Intention	Sun 6.30pm Brendan & Molly McGarry
Fri 10.00am Parochial House	

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass) & 12 noon.

Thanks to Scoil an Duinnigh for permission to use the school hall for Sunday Masses, now including 11:00AM Mass in Irish.



Forgiveness

When we forgive we free ourselves from the burden of bitterness, and we free the other person of the burden of guilt. But our forgiveness must come from the heart, which means it must be true, sincere, and warm. A cold forgiveness is not much use. Forgiveness should start now. Putting it off only deepens the wound, prolongs bitterness, and postpones happiness. Life is short, time is fleeting. Today is the day to forgive. Lord, deliver us from the poison of bitterness, and give us the grace to forgive from the heart those who have offended us. Then we will know the warmth of your forgiveness. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you."

Newsletter Sunday 17th September 2017

The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated on the 14th of September. On this day we honour the Holy Cross on which Christ died out of love for us and by his death on the cross he brought Salvation to the world. The Cross of Christ is the instrument of love through which God saved us. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, beginning with the miraculous discovery of the cross on September 14, 326, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the same day the two churches built at the site of Calvary by Constantine were dedicated. In the Western Church, the feast came into prominence in the seventh century, after Emperor Heraclius of Constantinople recaptured the cross of Christ from the Persians and returned it to Jerusalem. The Cross because of what it represents is the most potent and universal symbol of the Christian faith. We revere the instrument by which Jesus Christ, Our Lord, saved us. Once understood as an object of scorn and shame, now the cross has become for us the sign of glory.

Adoration of the Cross is the adoration of Jesus Christ, the God Man, who suffered and died on this Roman instrument of torture to save us from sin and death. The cross represents the One Sacrifice by which Jesus, obedient even unto death, accomplished our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. This Cross today is the best-known religious symbol of Christianity. It reminds Christians of God's act of love in Christ's sacrifice at Calvary, where he gave his life for us, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him may not perish, but have everlasting life." The cross also reminds Christians of Jesus' victory over sin and death, since it is through His death and resurrection; Jesus conquered death and gave us new life. The cross symbolises the sacrifice of Christ through which he saved humanity and today it is presented as an instrument of Christ's triumph. Our faith tells us that the Cross is an instrument of our God's saving Love".

Pope Benedict XVI in his homily on the Holy Cross at the Shrine of Lourdes said: "What a great thing it is to possess the Cross." Then quoting St Andrew of Crete, the Pope said that he who possesses it possesses a treasure. On this day when the Church's liturgy celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, the Gospel reminds us of the meaning of this great mystery: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that men might be saved. The Son of God became vulnerable, assuming the condition of a slave, obedient even to death, death on a cross. By his Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God's judgement on the world has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – 'How precious is your mercy, O God!'



Advance Notice

At the end of September, I'll be in Rome for a few days on the Parish Holiday and Fr. Pat will be Assisi on a Diocesan organised holiday. It has proved impossible to organise complete cover for the time that we are both away. As a result, there will be **NO** Mass on Friday 29th September and Saturday 30th September (that includes the Evening Vigil Mass).

The three Sunday Masses will go ahead as normal and on Monday 2nd October the 8.00 Mass will be celebrated.

Church Painting

The painting of the Church has started and will take 4 weeks plus 'injury time'. The plan is that for those 4 weeks the Parish will celebrate the 8.00am Mass. Having discussed the matter **AGAIN** with Fr. Pat, there is a slight change to the arrangements announced in last week's newsletter.

8.00am Mass – this will be celebrated in the Parish Church every day during the period of painting.

10.00am Mass – This will be celebrated every day this week – 18th to 22nd Sept in the **Parochial house, Seatown Road - upstairs**. There is **NO PARKING** in the Parochial house for this Mass. Brackentown and River Valley celebrate a 10.00am Mass.

Unfortunately, the Parochial House is not wheelchair accessible

There will be no 10.00am Mass in the Parish Church (except for Funeral Masses) for the duration of the painting so that the painter can get a good run at the day. The Sunday Masses will be as normal.

Church will be open

For the duration of the painting the Church will remain open and people can visit as normal to say prayers and light a candle

Do this in Memory

The programme has started. There is great excitement for the girls and boys and we have held our initial parents' meetings. The DTIM is a Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Penance and First Eucharist. Next week end will be their first Mass – the Enrolment Mass. The girls and boys come from our Parish Schools, **St. Colmcille's GNS and St. Colmcille's BNS**.

This year the boys and girls will come together for their special Masses. The Enrolment Mass will be held next **Sunday 24th September at 6.30pm**. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them and their parents/guardians. The First Holy Communion dates are as follows: St. Colmcille's GNS – Saturday 19th May and St. Colmcille's BNS – Saturday 12th May

The boys and girls from **Holy Well Educate Together** will do their DTIM programme in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam (School Hall). There are about 30 pupils - Their Communion date is Saturday 2nd June

Parish Pastoral Council

The PPC is meeting this Monday 18th September at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Liturgy Group This group is meeting on Tuesday 19th September at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Crosscare

Crosscare - Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin annual collection for community and homeless services will take place at all masses **this weekend 16th & 17th September**, it will replace the normal Share Collection

Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare has: a **VISION** of a society where all people have the opportunity to fulfil their full potential. A **MISSION** to provide innovation and relevant services to those most in need.



Anam Cara the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 20th September at 7:30pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. Please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tuesday 19th Sept or call the Information Line on 085 2888 888.

Bethany Group public Talk

A free public talk by Brid Carroll entitled: 'Grieving Alone in the context of the family,' has been arranged for both Bethany members and members of the public in Holy Child Parish Centre Thatch Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9 on Wednesday September 20th from 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

The next **Bethany Bereavement Support Meeting** will take place on Monday 25th September at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road. This is a free and confidential service. You are most welcome to attend. Please phone 8403243 for further information.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop Raymond Field is hosting a Mass of Thanksgiving for his Pastoral Area on Sunday the 15th of October at 10.30am in St. Brigid's Parish, Blanchardstown for couples who are celebrating Silver, Ruby, Golden, Diamond and Platinum Wedding Anniversaries.

Were you Married in 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977 or 1992?

If so and you would to attend this Mass please leave your name with Colette so that we can inform Blanchardstown Parish.

A celebratory certificate will be presented on the day & refreshments will be offered afterwards in the Parish Centre -

Lectio Divina Goup

Resumes next Tuesday 19th September at 7.00pm The group meets every Tuesday in the Parochial House, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. For anyone interested in developing scripture in their lives All welcome

Good Luck to the Dublin Senior Team and to Paul Flynn in this year's, GAA Football All Ireland Senior Championship Final. 'Up The Dubs!!'

