

### Prayer/Reflection

The words of Jesus remain with us to this very day.  
They fall on our ears like a blessing  
healing troubled minds,  
bringing light to those in darkness  
and hope to those in despair. Lord, give us a love for your words.  
Grant that we may make them part of our lives  
so that they will illuminate  
our journey to your kingdom.

*Fr. Michael Carey*



### Mass intentions for Next Week

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Tom Martin	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Nancy Doyle & Alice O'Rourke
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Servant of God , Alphonsus Lambe	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Nick Bates
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Mary Byrne	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Arthur Agnew	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Mary Flynn
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Special intention	<b>Sun</b> 11.00 am John Bateman
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Kay O'Neill	
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Rose Geoghegan	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Kathleen Doyle	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Larry Dolan	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm Pauline Temple
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Mary English	

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:  
**Bridie Ruane** **Forest Crescent**



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

*Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am/11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon (No weekday Mass)*

The Drynam Pastoral Team has started investigating the possibility of replacing our aging church structure. We would welcome your ideas and practical help on this project. Please talk to anyone on the team.



### The Great Adventure for Lent 2016

An eight week course for anyone who wants an overview of the key books of the Bible. If you would like to have a deeper relationship with God and a better understanding of your faith, then join us for Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible. Brackenstown Parish will begin Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible on Monday 1st February at 7:30pm in the Pastoral Centre. For more information or to sign up, contact the Parish Office 01 8401188 or brackenstownparish@gmail.com or fill in a form and place it in the white post boxes in the Church. There will be a charge of €20 for the workbook. If you intend to sign up please let us know by this Tuesday 26/01/16 as we need to know how many workbooks to order.

### New Year Seminar

The Dublin Diocesan resource centre is holding this seminar on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January from 9.30am to 1.30pm. It will focus mainly on the Year of Mercy. If you are interested in going along please inform Colette in the Parish Office. She has the booking forms. There are also a few who go from Swords so you won't be alone!!

**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**



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### **The Bible – handbook for Christians**

*“O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth”*

**Newsletter Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016**



Each Sunday we hear the words of Jesus, words that were written down by the early Christians, and which have been preserved for us over the centuries by the Church. Thus Christ's promise has come true: 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

The Gospel consists of a series of stories, all of which coalesce to form one great story—the story of Jesus. While we all like to listen to a story, we grow tired if we are told the same story over and over again. When that happens we switch off. The same thing can happen with the Gospel story. It may come across as old, stale and lifeless.

How can we combat that stale and weary sense of the familiar? We have to try to hear the story afresh, indeed, as for the very first time. **The Gospel is the greatest story ever told.** But we need to recapture the wonder of it. We need to release the energy contained in it, if we are to experience the power it has to charm, surprise, shock, challenge, and inspire. We need to hear it in such a way that we are drawn into it, and hear our own stories as we listen to it. When that happens, our stories merge with that of the Gospel, and are illuminated by it.

Everything we need is contained in the Gospel. Here we have the words of Jesus himself. Those who make this book their teacher will never go astray.

It's not enough just to turn to the Gospel in times of misfortune. It's not enough to turn it into an object of veneration (like the Book of Kells). We have to examine our lives against the words of this book. Those words should kindle a fire in our hearts, and others should feel the warmth.

The Gospel contains only those things that are the best and the deepest in life. At the deepest level the teaching of Jesus rings true. In listening to him, you feel you are listening to the voice of God.

There was a saint who, whenever he was faced with a difficult decision would ask himself: What would the Book say? The answer would come back from deep inside him: you must do what is right and best. Thus the Book had an enormous influence on him. It strengthened him in moments of weakness. It inspired him in moments of generosity. It shamed him in moments of cowardice. But through it all he had grasped the essential thing: that the Gospel had to be lived.

The Gospel is the handbook of every Christian. The opinions of human beings are rooted in appearances and change from day to day but the words of Jesus do not pass away. We would do well to build the house of our life on his words. *Fr. Flor McCarthy SDB*

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – "Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed"*



### Year of Mercy

The fourth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericaordiae Vultus' is as follows: The Holy Year will open on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer. When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive. I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, the Holy Door will become a *Door of Mercy* through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.

### Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday evening 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. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

### Ordinary Time

We are now in what the Church calls Ordinary Time. The term "Ordinary Time" may be misleading. 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.

### Catholic Schools Week (CSW)

This Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January begins Catholic Schools Week. It coincides with the Do This in Memory programme and therefore emphasises the wonderful work that our Parish Schools do in preparing your children for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. CSW is an All-Ireland event celebrated in all Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools. The purpose of the week is to highlight and celebrate the wonderful contribution that Catholic Schools make to our local communities and society in general; this year's theme is 'CATHOLIC SCHOOLS –Challenged to Proclaim God's Mercy'. During the coming week, we invite you to join us in celebrating the contribution that our Catholic schools (St. Colmcille's GNS and St. Colmcille's BNS) make to the life of the faith community here in our parish.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE Holy Door in a Jubilee Year – It is a door that opens in the Church in order to reach out to those who, for many reasons, are far away! - Pope Francis

- The new readers roster for February and March is now on the Parish website and at the back of the Church
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## Parish Holiday to Vienna & Salzburg

Monday 27 June – Saturday 2 July 2016

*Home of magnificent buildings, elegant palaces, fine art, classical music, waltzes, coffee shops and beautiful gardens ..... this is Vienna where you will be spending 3 nights before heading to the lovely Baroque romantic city of Salzburg, for the remainder of your holiday.*

**Highlights include** Guided half day walking tour of Vienna \*Visiting the Melk Abbey\*Half day walking tour of Salzburg\*Half day Sound of Music coach tour **Cost: €895.00 per person sharing This price includes:** Return direct flight Dublin/Vienna, Munich/Dublin with Aer Lingus\* 5 nights accommodation sharing twin room in 3star hotel\* Meals: bed and breakfast + 2 dinners\* **Extras:** Baggage fee (currently €50.00 – 15 kg) \* Insurance: €28.00 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies) \* Single room supplement: €35.00 per person per night **Bookings and Information: Contact Parish Office. Tel: (01) 8407277**

### Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment for girls starting school in September 2016 takes place from January 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> , 9am – 10.30am each morning. **Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms**

### Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2016 are available from the school, 9.00am –4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 29<sup>th</sup> **Baptismal & Birth Certificate must accompany all forms**



### A Date for your Diary

**On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 11am** 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.

### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30pm - 8.30 p.m. in the Parochial House, Seatown Road ,Swords . Next Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.Open to all Fingal Residents

### Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan** after the 10.00am Mass. Can the 'Team 2' cleaners for this second Friday of the month please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome