

the transparent wrongs and incongruous behaviour but a passion to do the right thing is more productive in effecting change.

Pope Francis says the primary duty of a believer is to be the *face of Christ to those in need, to show them what God is like*. Trócaire, through your kindness and generosity, is the face of Christ, to some of the most vulnerable people in the world in the most difficult places to live on this planet.

Trócaire has this passion. Our willingness to provide assistance can help bring change.

After all, if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything! (*Trocaire Lenten*

Resources for 2018).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Robert Donovan

Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer

Mon 10.00am Maureen Kenny

Tues 8.00am Mrs Cunningham

Sat 6.30pm Paddy Barber

Tues 10.00am Eileen Bird & Ann Farren

Wed 8.00am Sr Patricia Hughes

Sun 8.30am Veronica Barker

Wed 10.00am Ann Healy

Thurs 8.00am Paul Burke

Sun 11.00 John, Margaret Sean & Seamus

Thurs 10.00am Michael Lynch

Melia

Fri 8.00am Nora Buckley

Sun 6.30pm Thomas McGrane

Fri 10.00am John Bond

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

We will have an additional Mass at 12:15 today for the Holywell National School children and families as part of the 'Do This In Memory' program.

Third Sunday of Lent

As Lent moves on, the cross comes into clear focus. Today the story of the cleansing of the temple is recounted for us. What was at issue for the Jews was the authority by which Jesus could claim to do this. The answer is found in the phrase 'and when Jesus rose from the dead'. John, the writer, interprets the death and resurrection of Jesus as the basis for his authority. This idea is paralleled in the first reading where the ten commandments are given their authority by being spoken by the mouth of God. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

World Meeting of Families (WMOF) – reflection

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute way.

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination will effect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings,

what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you will read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. (Pedro Arrupe)

Quote from 'Love one another as I have loved you' by Fr. Gareth Byrne.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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 of Lent

The Face of Christ to those in Need!

“My eyes are always on the Lord”

Newsletter Sunday 4th March 2018



Continuing the Trocaire reflection for Lent, Fr. Emlyn McGinn, Trócaire Diocesan Representative for the Archdiocese of Armagh and Cookstown Parish who travelled with Trócaire to Sierra Leone in November 2017 has the following to say on this 3rd Sunday of Lent

There is the old saying; 'If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything'. Moral theologians, in particular, bemoan our own era as the time of moral relativism, a kind of anything goes morality, where nothing is absolutely right or wrong.

In this Season of Lent, we are challenged to renew our efforts at prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In order to achieve these goals, we need something of Christ's passion and zeal which is dramatically captured in the account of the money changers in the temple. This Gospel account ends with Saint John the evangelist remarking that, 'he (Jesus) could tell what a man had in him'.

Jesus wants our faith to occupy centre stage in our life. It is therefore implicit that we are not held ransom to secular forces that may prevail. It is also incumbent that we don't just accept the status quo without considering how we may be agents of change.

November 2017, I had the opportunity to travel to Sierra Leone and witness first-hand the work of Trócaire. Over the course of a week it became apparent to me that Trócaire work effectively with different local partners to bring relief and challenge the accepted norms.

In Sierra Leone we met a number of the local families left devastated by the landslide and flooding in 2017 including one family (who appear on this year's Trócaire box) who escaped the terrible fate that left 1141 declared dead or missing. We also met many of the survivors of the Ebola outbreak. Although no new cases have been reported in 2017 many families remain haunted by their loss and many survivors are plagued with medical problems, including mental health issues.

In this year, when we concentrate as a Church on the theme of family in preparation for World Meeting of Families in Ireland it was uplifting to experience Trócaire's work with a number of communities who are being helped to address gender issues, specifically gender based violence. In the course of our discussions it was clearly highlighted that familial relationships had improved.

Perhaps one of the most damning critiques of a country which has so much potential and should be, according to the current Archbishop of Freetown, 'a donor country' because of its rich resources is the endemic level of corruption at a governmental level. This issue remains a major stumbling block which perpetuates the poverty for the vast majority.

In the midst of challenging circumstances, Trócaire carries out the most commendable support to the most vulnerable. At times, you may feel, like Jesus, at venting your anger at

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*



Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-10th March, Morning Prayer will be celebrated in Swords at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is Week 3. For those who would like to attend Mass it is celebrated in Brackenstown at 10.00am and River Valley at 11.00am

Do This in Memory (with Drynam)

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass (and the 12.15pm Mass in Drynam) 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.

Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their fourth and last Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Scoil an Duinnigh

Next Tuesday 6th March, the girls and boys will celebrate the Ceremony of Light as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This will take place in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation in Drynam at 7.00pm

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Sunday 4th March to Monday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12th of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. It reached Ireland in 1712 when it was first celebrated in Mary's Lane Chapel in St Michan's Parish, Dublin. Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. 'Grace' is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favour or free gift from God. Christians often ask God for favours, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.

Save the Date

The Archdiocese of Dublin's Knock Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday April 21st 2018. Theme: "We are Pilgrims – Knock invites us to Healing and Peace". Full programme to be announced soon.

Funeral Ministry Team.

The Funeral Ministry Team will meet on Tuesday 6th March at 2.30pm in the Parochial House

Towards the Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

Choose Life 2018 is a weekly newsletter being published by the National Bishops Conference. You will be able to read the whole text by logging into www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018. The fifth edition is on that website now. There are some copies on the table at the back of the Church.

Below is an excerpt from issue two.

"As a man it can be difficult to discuss the idea of abortion when it is so commonly referred to as a 'woman's right'. Men can often feel like they should remain silent on the issue." *Richie Fenton, Co. Waterford.*

Is a view on abortion solely a question of religious belief? The right to life is not just a question of religious belief. As the first and fundamental human right, it affects people of all faiths, and none. You do not have to be from any particular faith tradition to agree that human life should be protected and that intentionally ending the life of another human is never justified. Supporting and sustaining a culture of life is in the interest of every citizen, Catholics and all people of goodwill because it defines us as a society.

What is the view of the Church? The Church teaches that life is sacred from conception to natural death and there is no such thing as a life without value. This belief is based on reason as well as faith. Our Church rejects the suggestion that any person can decide when it is time for another person to die

Fingal for Life, a local pro-life group, are holding two information evenings on why it is essential to save the 8th Amendment.

The first one will be in St. Brigid's Parish Centre, Rolestown, **8.00pm, Tuesday 13th March**. Speakers include Caroline Simons, Pro Life Campaign and Fr. William R. Dailey, Notre Dame lecturer in law.

The second evening will be in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, at 7.45pm, **Tuesday 20th March**. Speakers include David Quinn, Journalist and Director of Iona Institute and Niamh Ní Bhriain, Director of Life Institute.

World Day of Prayer 2018

Every year on or near the 1st Friday in March, Christians around the world (Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Evangelical) of all ages (women, men, young people and children), gather in small groups and large congregations, using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year, on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee. This year the theme is "**All God's Creation is very Good**". The venue for our area is **St. Columbas's Church of Ireland**. And the Liturgy will take place on **Friday 9th March at 8.00pm. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE** All are welcome so please do come along!

Saints for the Coming Week

St. John of God, religious, - Thursday 8th March

1495-1550, devoted his life to the care of the poor and the sick. He is patron saint of nurses, the sick, heart patients, printers and booksellers.