

.We learn only slowly to accept the demands of discipleship. To be faithful disciples we must hand over our life by serving, by putting others' needs ahead of our own, and by dying to self-centredness. Through such serving and dying God transforms us and gives us a fullness of life and glory that we cannot even imagine. And this transformation is worth all the time it takes (*Source: Living Liturgy*)

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 10.00am James McElligotte	Sat 6.30pm Walter Higgins
Tues 8.00am Patricia Masterson	Patricia Keane (MM)
Tues 10.00am Patrick Kearns	Sun 8.30am Martin & James Hickey &
Wed 8.00am Daniel Roche	Eugene Lawlor
Wed 10.00am No Mass	Sun 11.00 Mary O'Connor
Thurs 8.00am Daniel Roche	Cathal Kelly (1st An)
Thurs 10.00am Bartle Savage	Sun 6.30pm Donie & Jenny Stapleton &
Fri 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor	Daughter Jenny
Fri 10.00am Bridget Barry	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

Please note all parishioners attending Mass at Drynam are welcome to attend any of the Parish Reflections in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in any of the venues at St. Cronan's, St. Finian's or St. Colmcille's. See schedule elsewhere on this newsletter. Choose the time and place that suits you. Next week's Conversation 2 will be on 'The Christian Vision of the Family'.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Today's first reading speaks of a new covenant. Jeremiah's ministry spanned the period at the end of the Seventh and the beginning of the Sixth Century before Christ. He justifies the notion of a new covenant on the grounds that the earlier covenant made between God and Israel at the time of the exodus from Egypt was broken by the people. He interprets all the mishaps that befell Israel in the meantime as God's attempt to bring them back to their senses and ultimately to him. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Saints for the Coming Week

St. Joseph – Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday 19th March, not a single word of his is recorded in Sacred Scripture and yet St. Joseph is one of the greatest and most popular saints, largely because of his humility and his closeness to Our Lord. He died before the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and, since he probably died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, is venerated as the patron of a good death.

Prayer to St. Joseph

Saint Joseph, gentle spouse and loving friend of Mary, guardian of her son Jesus, the Son of God, watch over and protect us, the brothers and sisters, the neighbours and friends of Jesus.

Keep us in your prayers whether we are awake or asleep. Help us to hold our hearts ever open to God's plan for us, to the surprises he keeps in store for us. To the dreams we have of who we can be in God's kindness.

With Mary, encourage us to say 'yes' to God's invitation to love, and to respond to him full of hope and peace. May our family, our parish, the wider community, and all creation, welcome Christ with you and sing for joy at the wonders of God's work. Amen

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



5th Sunday of Lent

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE AND REGARDING ABORTION

“Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless”

Newsletter Sunday 18th March 2018



I ask all Priests over the coming weeks to draw attention, in an appropriate way, to some basic principles of Catholic teaching concerning the dignity of human life and regarding abortion.

You will continue to receive resources, in particular, the **Choose Life** Newsletters, prepared by the Irish Episcopal conference and circulated by the Communications Office. Please see the attached statement from the Irish Bishops **“Our Common Humanity”**. Both can be printed and made available in Churches and in parish newsletters. They are also available to download on Diocesan website here: <http://www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018/>.

The Christian message is a message of life. It is about how every human life is a reflection of the very life of God. Each of us is created in the image of God.

Catholic teaching clearly affirms that every human life has unique and irreplaceable dignity. Every human life has the right, from its very beginnings, to flourish and develop as God wants it to.

The 8th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees equal protection for both mothers and unborn children. All should be equal in the face of the law. Any society, which attempts to define certain lives as being of lesser worth and of lesser protection, betrays the common good.

Further resources will be circulated in the coming weeks.

With every good wish,
+Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin

Living the Paschal Mystery

Was the prospect of suffering and dying easy for Jesus? Apparently not: “I am troubled now.” The key image in John's gospel is that Jesus being “lifted up from the earth.” On the one hand this means his being physically lifted up on the cross. It also means lifted up in exaltation, for, in John, the cross is exaltation; cross and glory can never be separated.

How much time does it take for a grape to be fermented into good wine? How much time does it take for a caterpillar to become a butterfly? How much time does it take a tiny acorn to become a mighty oak? Real transformation takes time. But the time involved is not as important than the change that this time brings about.

The way of the cross begins at our own doorstep and we are challenged to follow its path. The grain of wheat dying in the earth indicates how we must die to our selfishness before we can start living the life of Christ. The transformation to which Jesus calls us in today's gospel takes a lifetime of time.

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*



Bank Holiday

Tomorrow Monday 19th March is a bank holiday. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am only in St. Colmcille's

Wednesday 21st March

Due to the Confirmation Ceremony for Scoill an Duinninigh taking place today at 11.00am, there will be no 10.00am Mass.

Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Easter Cards

The Easter cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Sacrament of Confirmation – Scoil an Duinninigh

Next Wednesday 21st March, the girls and boys from St. Scoill an Duinninigh will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. in St. Colmcille's Swords. On behalf of the Parish. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

St. Vincent de Paul-Advocate Collection

The Annual Advocate collection for the Sunshine Fund takes place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March. The Sunshine Fund, a special works conference of the St. Vincent de Paul provides summer holidays for children all over Dublin who need a holiday. This collection is their only source of funds. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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

2018 Archdiocese of Dublin Annual Knock Pilgrimage The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 21st April 2018. This year's theme: *'We are Pilgrims – Knock invites us to healing and Peace.'* More information in next week's newsletter

Youth Services - Crosscare

The annual collection for CROSSCARE, Youth Services – Social Support Agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin will take place at all Masses **THIS** weekend 17th/18th March. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. Inspired by the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, Crosscare reach out to young people who are in need by offering them support, encouragement and hope. The services provided are designed to help these young people fulfil their inherent God given potential (*Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*)

Rosary at the MASS ROCK For LIFE and FAITH

Sunday March 18th at 2:30pm .Itinerary and Meeting Points (approximate times):

- Meet at St. Finian's Church, River Valley, at 2.15pm.
- Depart on foot at 2.30pm through the Valley.
- Continue to Glasmore Abbey (The Nunnery) for 3.00pm.
- Walk back to St. Cronan's Church for 3.20pm.
- Walk to St. Colmcille's Well for 3.50pm.
- Walk to St. Colmcille's Church for 4.15pm.

Led by Fr. Paul Thornton. For more information call Aoife on Tel: 085-1797278 or Ann on Tel: 087-054 4882. <https://www.coastalrosaryireland.ie/>

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are hosting parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes.

Conversation 2:

Tuesday 20th March in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre on from 8pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday 21st in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Thursday 22nd in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!



Swords Meals on Wheels are looking for a Relief Coordinator

Role: We are looking for a person who would be willing to provide back-up support to the existing co-ordinators e.g. provide cover for a short period or in an emergency. As a Relief co-ordinator you will help to ensure the smooth running of day-to-day activities and associated tasks. Generally the time requirement would be 3hrs per day for 2 days. The role is purely voluntary, unpaid. Please contact Paul Mc Cormack on 0877699084

Liturgy Meeting

The Swords Liturgy Team will meet this Tuesday 20th March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House