

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world.

Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

(A) **Apocryphal** (of a story or statement) of doubtful authenticity, although widely circulated as being true.

(B) **Protoevangelium** - In Christian theology, the *protevangeliium* is God's statement to the Serpent in the Garden of Eden about how the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15,)

Protevangeliium is a compound word of two Greek words, *protos* meaning "first" and *evangelion* meaning "good news" or "gospel". Thus the *protevangeliium* in Genesis 3:15 is commonly referred to as the first mention of the good news of salvation in the Bible.

Protevangeliium is "the first glimmer of the gospel".

Fr. Michael Carey

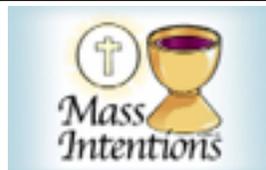
Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Susan Lambe (An)

Margaret Bermingham (1st An)

Sun 8.30am Michael McCabe (Recently decd)

Sun 11.15am Joe Prendergast (An)



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Thomas Hanratty

Mon 10.00am Louis Henry

Tues 8.00am Sr Ann Cuddihy

Tues 10.00am Shane Rock

Wed 8.00am Danny Patten

Wed 10.00am Dermot McEvoy

Thurs 8.00am Tina Noble

Thurs 10.00am May Larkin

Fri 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor

Fri 10.00am Donal Kelly

Next Sunday

Sat 6.30pm John McGreevy

David Dunne (1st An)

Sun 8.30am Rosetta Culleton

Sun 11.15 James & Úna Nevin &
son Jim Jnr

At our Masses this Sunday we also remember: Paddy Hughes, Alexandu Sandor

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

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

The Drynam Pastoral Team will have its first meeting after the Summer break on Tuesday 10th at 8:00PM.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 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



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary**



*"You are just, o Lord, and your judgement
is right"*

Newsletter Sunday 8th September 2019

The 8th of September is Our Lady's birthday. Because it falls on a Sunday the Church does not celebrate it this year because Sunday's are feasts of the Lord. Having said that, I will write this week's newsletter about the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially as the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage is in Lourdes at this present moment.

The Story of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal (A) *Protoevangelium of James* (B) fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

"Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace,
that the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of
salvation"

Reflection - We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

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*



Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus,
you were born of the Virgin Mary,
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.
Look with love on grandparents the world over.
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment
for families, for the Church and for all of society.
Support them! As they grow older,
may they continue to be for their families
strong pillars of Gospel faith,
guardian of noble domestic ideals,
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,
that they may pass on to future generations the
fruits
of their mature human and spiritual experience.
Lord Jesus, help families and society
to value the presence and roles of grandparents.
May they never be ignored or excluded,
but always encounter respect and love.
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed
in all the years of life which you give them.
Mary, Mother of all the living,
keep grandparents constantly in your care,
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,
and by your prayers, grant that all families
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,
where you await all humanity for the great
embrace of life without end. Amen!
Author: Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI



God's Housekeepers

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 13TH September** after the 10.00am Mass. Can cleaning group 2 for this Friday please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **THIS** weekend at all Masses

Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage

The Catholic Grandparents Association Annual National Grandparents Pilgrimage will be held **THIS** Sunday September 8th in Knock Shrine at **2.30pm**. Everybody welcome to honour & thank Grandparents alive & dead for all they have done for us down through the ages. Chief Celebrant on the day will be Bishop Kevin Doran, Bishop of Elphin – also in attendance are Combined Choirs of Knock Parish – Dana sings 'Our Lady of Knock'.
All welcome.

Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at -The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." Date of next meeting 9th September 2019. Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

'The Kingdom of God' is a term which we frequently meet in Luke's gospel. It is a metaphor used by Jesus to refer to God's reign in the world being accepted by humankind. The kingdom is not identical with the Church. Wherever the values which Jesus lived and preached are operating, even though the Church may not be established in that place, the Kingdom is already there.

Reflection - One of the mysterious aspects of the Kingdom of God is that on the one hand it is already here and, on the other, it has not yet arrived. The message of a number of kingdom parables is that the kingdom spreads silently and unobtrusively. In spite of apparently weak beginnings and feeble efforts the kingdom is taking root wherever people treat one another with respect and love. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 18th September at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not. Please contact us on info@anamcara.ie or 085 2888 888 for any queries.

ACTIV8 is a new course from the Office of Evangelisation and Ecumenism to enable individuals and parish communities, aged between 30 and 55, grow their capacity to share faith with others. There are eight sessions once a month over eight months. The course will explore how faith can grow: connecting with new ways of praying, the use of social media and optimising the potential of Sunday. In this course participants will grow in the skill of faith sharing and confident dialogue with fellow travellers and seekers. To register please email mary.dent@dublindiocese.ie.