

- Invite someone to go to Mass with you this weekend
- Know your faith! Read through the Irish Catholic Catechism for adults to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it. You can read the Catholic papers, pamphlets and booklets which are sold at the back of the church. **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention	Sat 10.00am Jack Graham & Cis O'Grady
Mon 10.00am Tony McGowan	
Tues 8.00am Denis King	Sun 6.30pm Gwen Glynn
Tues 10.00am Tom & Alice Kane & Vinnie & Vera Pepper	
Wed 8.00am Mary Doyle	
Wed 10.00am Oliver Morton	Sun 8.30am Special Intention
Thurs 8.00am Patrick & Ann Walshe	Sun 11.00am Mary & Matthew Dillon
Fri 8.00am Margaret & Robert Power	
Fri 10.00am Frank Heron	Sun 6.30pm Bernie Nolan

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon, Mon 9.20am

Today we congratulate the children with special education needs who have been attending the monthly faith formation classes here in Drynam over the past year. They will display their projects in the hall after 12:00 Mass. All are welcome to come in and view their excellent work.



Swords 1916 – 2016 Commemoration 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. To honour the contribution made by the men and women of Fingal to the events of 1916, Fingal County Council is planning a series of events under the heading Fingal 2016 Centenary Event. A State Ceremonial Event with the Raising of the Flag and the reading of the Proclamation will take place on Sunday 24th April 2016. This will be followed by a parade and additional events in Swords Town Park including re-enactments, music performances and an exhibition that tells the unique story that is "Fingal & the Fight for Irish Freedom." The day will culminate with a firework display.

What's Happening: Swords Castle & Town Park – **Sunday 24th April 2016, 4.45pm to 9.00pm** The Fingal 2016 Commemoration Event will commence with a Parade through Main Street, Swords at 4.45 p.m. The Parade will pause at the Viewing Stand area for: · State Ceremonial Element – Defence Forces · Reading of the Proclamation · Raising of the National Flag · Bugler Playing the Reveille · Piper's Lament · A Wreath laying ceremony · A Minutes silence The Parade will then carry on into the Town Park. The event in the Park will include performances from: · Bands including: The Black Raven Pipe Band, St Maur's Pipe Band, St Lawrence Pipe Band, St Patrick's Pipe & Reed Band, The Communications Workers Union Band and Dublin 15 Brass Band. · Enchiriadis Treis – Malahide Choir · Centenary Poetry Winning Entry – Loreto Secondary School Balbriggan Fireworks Display in Swords Town Park. Event will conclude at 9.00 p.m.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Bill Gallagher **Magenta Crescent, Santry**



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



4th Sunday of Easter **The Spiritual Works of Mercy** *"The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth"*

Newsletter Sunday 17th April 2016

Continuing on from last week's newsletter in which I

am highlighting the 14 works of Mercy.

Works of mercy can be directed not only toward the needs of the body, but the needs of the soul as well. Indeed, the most serious form of poverty of all can be the *poverty of the spirit*, not only because it drains life of all energy, joy, and sense of purpose, but also because it is the one kind of poverty that can last forever.

That's why, in addition to the corporal works of mercy, the Church has outlined the spiritual works of mercy. Look to these works as preventative medicine for poverty of the spirit. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows:

- (1) *Admonish sinners.* (2) *Instruct the uninformed.* (3) *Counsel the doubtful.*
- (4) *Comfort the sorrowful.* (5) *Be patient with those in error.* (6) *Forgive offences.*
- (7) *Pray for the living and the dead.*

Second: Instruct the Uninformed

This is probably not the best title, but it is the traditional one. It means, first of all, accepting our God-given responsibility to be the primary source of religious education and formation for our children. Some Catholics may be surprised to learn that it is not the local Catholic school or 'Do This in Memory' program upon whom this responsibility primarily rests. Rather, it is the parents.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children" (2223), and parents "receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelising their children" (2225). This includes, from an early age, reading to our children and grandchildren Bible stories and stories of the lives of the saints, as well as great Christian works such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. It means praying together as a family, too — perhaps by offering a family Rosary and/or reciting prayers at bedtime.

We do not have to turn our homes into monasteries and convents, but we do have to heed the exhortation of St. Paul: "Do not be conformed to this world, be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom 12:2).

Beyond our homes, of course, the need for evangelisation is equally urgent. Often there is no more effective (and no less threatening) way to evangelise than to do so *in the natural course of friendship itself*.

As St. Peter taught us, "Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence" (1 Pet 3:15). Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

- Why not join one of the Ministry Groups in the Parish – no qualifications necessary other than the desire to serve the Lord



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

Confirmation Retreat

Last week, I held a retreat for the girls and boys of St. Colmeille's as they will be receiving the Sacrament shortly. The boys retreat was on Wednesday and the girls on Friday. It began for both groups with Mass at 10.00am in the Parish Church and they went on to the Parochial House for the remainder of the day. It was a day of fun, games and quizzes (with a Christian theme), some teaching and review of the ceremony to be held on the day. I was ably assisted by Srs. Margaret and Mary, without whom the day would not have worked. Thank you and especially to the girls and boys who were so well behaved. Thanks also to Colette who continued with her day's work with the dulcet tones of the girls and boys 'ringing' in the background. The retreat marked the end of this Year's Parish Based Programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A big thank you to all the families who participated.



Sacrament of Confirmation - BNS

Next Thursday 21st April, the boys from St. Colmeille's BNS will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. On behalf of the Parish I am delighted to welcome Bishop Raymond Field who will administer the Sacrament. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

Year of Mercy

The tenth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericordiae Vultus' continues - Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love. The Church "has an endless desire to show mercy". Perhaps we have long since forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy. The temptation, on the one hand, to focus exclusively on justice made us forget that this is only the first, albeit necessary and indispensable step. But the Church needs to go beyond and strive for a higher and more important goal. On the other hand, sad to say, we must admit that the practice of mercy is waning in the wider culture. In some cases the word seems to have dropped out of use. However, without a witness to mercy, life becomes fruitless and sterile, as if sequestered in a barren desert. The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

Vocations Sunday

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday is a special day for everyone in our parish and our Diocese. We celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We ask that we may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as we carry on the mission of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We pray in thanksgiving today for our Bishop, Priests, Religious and Deacons and for an increase in vocations in the Church. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously.

Dublin has currently ten men studying for the priesthood, seven in Maynooth and three in the Irish College, Rome.

Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 22nd Apr** after the 10.00am Mass. Can the 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

Day of Prayer for Vocations

"Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." **Pope Francis**

"It is not a time to be lamenting; it is a time to be rising to the challenge with courage and Christian enthusiasm." **Archbishop Diarmuid Martin**

"We, as priests are called to be, like Christ, the Face of mercy to the world. What a wonderful calling! What a challenge, particularly in a world which at times seems everything but merciful." **Archbishop Eamon Martin**

This Weekends 2nd Collection

A special collection is taken up at all Masses this Saturday/Sunday to support our students for the Priesthood. This will replace the usual Share Collection. Your support is very much appreciated

The Bible's Most Important People

Elizabeth – Wife of the priest Zechariah and mother of John the Baptist. For many years Elizabeth had been barren, but her husband received a vision promising that she would conceive. When Elizabeth heard, she rejoiced at God's favour. Her cousin Mary visited her for three months when Mary learned she would bear the Messiah.

Thursday 21st April

There is no 10.00am Mass this day as the Confirmation Ceremony is at 11.00am. There will be 8.00am Mass this day

A Date for your Diary

The fundraising committee will be running its annual Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on **Friday 10th June 2016**.

The Church and the 1916 Rising

Declan Brady will give a talk on the attitude and understanding of the Church and those involved in the Rising on Thursday, 21st April at 8.00pm in St Cronan's Parish Pastoral Centre Brackenstown. All are welcome

Every conquering temptation represents
a new fund of moral energy.
Every trial endured and weathered
in the right spirit makes a soul
nobler and stronger than it was before. **WB Yeats**

