

feet. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he came to realise that Jesus does not wish to be just an example of how we should wash one another's feet. Only those who have first allowed Jesus to wash their own feet can then offer this service to others. Only they have 'a part' with him and thus can serve others.

Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy.

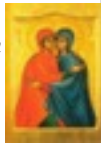
The Church is the *communio sanctorum* not only because of her saints, but also because she is a communion in holy things: the love of God revealed to us in Christ and all his gifts. Among these gifts there is also the response of those who let themselves be touched by this love. In this communion of saints, in this sharing in holy things, no one possesses anything alone, but shares everything with others. And since we are united in God, we can do something for those who are far distant, those whom we could never reach on our own, because with them and for them, we ask God that all of us may be open to his plan of salvation.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

Mon 8.00am Bridget Carr	Sat 10.00am Patricia Hennelly
Mon 10.00am Deceased members of Clarkin Family	Sat 6.30 (Vigil) Anthony & Mary Kelly
Tues 8.00am Bill Leacey	Sun 8.30am Vera Barker
Tues 10.00am Paddy Barker	Sun 11.00am Kevin Greenan
Wed 8.00 am Seamus Lehane	Patrick Dunne
Wed 10.00am Ellen Green	Sun 6.30pm Thomas McGrane
Thurs 8.00am Health Intention	Mon 16th 6.30pm John Cookson
Thurs 10.00am Joe Hatch	Tues 17th 8.30am Ellen & Joe McCarthy
Fri 8.00 am Tom McGrath & Bridie McGrath	Tues 17th 11.00am John Allen
Fri 10.00am Pat, Ann & Mary Dunphy	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM
Mass Times for Drynam: Mon & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am (Irish) & 12 noon
 Fr. Peter is currently working on 'Do this in memory' programme for 24 children from Holywell Educate Together School who are preparing for First Communion taking place Drynam over 2 Sundays, 10th and 17th May at 12:00 Mass.



Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Meeting Monday March 9th at 7.30pm in Parochial House. All Fingal residents welcome

Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting this Monday 9th March at 8.15pm in the Parochial House

Liturgy Group

Meeting this Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in the Parochial House

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier continues to Thursday 12th March

Ministers of the Word

There is a workshop in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe on **Thursday 19th March from 8.00pm – 9.30pm**. It will focus on the readings of Holy Week. If you are interested please leave your name with Colette at the Parish Office.

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)
 Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)
 Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com



3rd Sunday of Lent

Make your hearts firm (1)

“My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare”



Newsletter Sunday 8th March 2015

In January of this year Pope Francis issued a message for Lent. As we are now entering the third week of Lent some of what the Pope said may be of interest and more importantly may

spurn some conversion 'metanoia' of your heart.

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each communities and every believer. Above all it is a 'time of grace'. God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. We love because he first has loved us. He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure. Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I do not think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.

When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this Message is precisely the globalisation of indifference.

Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love. But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this interior renewal, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts. This Sunday's reflection by the Holy Father will focus on the Church. Next week his reflections will focus on a) Parishes and Communities and b) Individual Christians
'If one member suffers, all suffer together' – The Church
 The love of God breaks through that fatal withdrawal into ourselves which is indifference. The Church offers us this love of God by her teaching and especially by her witness. But we can only bear witness to what we ourselves have experienced. Christians are those who let God clothe them with goodness and mercy, with Christ, so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others. This is clearly seen in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with its rite of the washing of

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise”



Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper is I believe a powerful Liturgy, in particular because of the Lord's Mandate to Peter concerning the washing of feet. Fr. Peter and I would like to do this as part of the Liturgy. It is a liturgical action – *the feet are already clean!!* I invite you to consider volunteering. Please do not be afraid or shy! We need about 6 people. Please leave your name in the sacristy. Thank you

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday Evening Mass (new time) 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 Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday Evening 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.

Seven Candles

In both our Parish Churches, you will notice 7 candles. This is an idea from the Torcaire resource book. On the First Sunday of Lent all seven candles are lit. Gradually each Sunday of Lent (including Good Friday) a candle is extinguished. As we extinguish the candles we recall one of Jesus' Last Seven Words:

- (a) Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Lk.23:34)
- (b) I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise (Lk.23:43)
- (c) Woman, Behold your Son... Behold your mother (Jn.19:26-27)
- (d) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mk.15:34)
- (e) I thirst (Jn.19:28)
- (f) It is finished (Jn.19:30)
- (g) Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Lk.23:46)

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: There is only one tragedy in the end, not to have been a saint.....Leon Bloy (1846-1917, French novelist and convert)

Conference, 'Coping Skills for People Broken-hearted by Loss' will be held in the Skylon Hotel, Upr Drumcondra Road on Friday 13th March, 10am- 1.30pm, for loss through death of loved ones, suicide of family members or friends, separation or divorce, breakdown of relationships, emigration, employment, loss of homes or finances, or loss of health. Phone 8388888 or email info@awarenesseducation.org. Fee €35 including tea/coffee & lunch. www.awarenesseducation.org

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up this weekend at all Masses

Parish Tour to Poland - Based in Krakow

Monday 29 June – Saturday 4 July 2015

*Krakow largely escaped wartime damage, and remains one of Eastern Europe's most architecturally beautiful cities. The Old Town centre round the Grand Market Square, is full of fine buildings including the twin Towered Gothic St. Mary's Church, the Cloth Hall and on the hill overlooking the Vistula River stands the Renaissance Cathedral and Wawel Castle. Our tour to Poland will give you a bird's eye view of **Pope John Paul's home country** and the Province where he was born and reared. We will visit his hometown **Wadowice** and stay in **Krakow** where he spent his adult life before going to Rome. We will make a pilgrimage to **Auschwitz** and remember all those who suffered or died there and also visit the shrine of **St. Faustina**.*

Accommodation: Atrium Hotel 3* www.hotelatrium.pl Centrally located in the Old Town and just a short walk from the Market Square. The hotel has a bar and restaurant serving local cuisine.

Price per person sharing:- €725.00

Price includes:*Return flights Dublin/Krakow*5 night's accommodation, twin sharing on a bed and breakfast basis + 2 dinners* Guided walking tour of the medieval city * Day excursion to Wadowice – birthplace of Pope John Paul II * Visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau * Visit to the world famous Salt mines of Wieliczka

Extras: *Baggage fee (currently €50.00 – 15 kg)* Insurance: €28.00 (65 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)* Single room supplement: €30.00 per person per night (limited availability)*

Deposit €250.00 per person – Book early!!

The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend

Two collectors for each weekend Mass are required. These are hard to get! It's not fair to be relying on the same people all the time. Please give 5 minutes after Mass. If you volunteer for this task please leave your name with Stephanie

Last year I held four of these collections throughout the year. This year there will be only three. This fund will provide for the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It also provides for all art and décor, banners and flowers etc. There are other expenses throughout the year, such as the printing of booklets, prayers, candles, postage stamps etc. As a Parish we are very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed volunteers; they give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Please give what you can to this fund to help us ensure that they have the best possible support in their ministries. This collection takes place in St. Colmcille's only. The three dates are w/end 14th /15th March; 22nd /23rd August and 21st /22nd Nov.

Stations of Cross

As you can see this week's newsletter is about the stations of the cross. For the Season of Lent, I have placed prayers and reflections under each of the Stations in the Church. They will remain for Lent and will I hope help if you are not sure what to pray when at each station. I have put them there to encourage the praying of the stations during Lent and parents will I trust find them helpful if they want to teach their children with them. *If you are very busy you could 'space out' the stations and pray them over the course of a week.*

