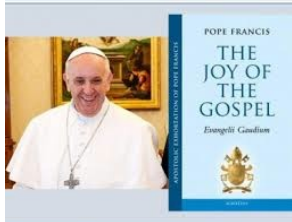


Swords– St. Colmeille’s/Drynam – Our Lady of the Visitation

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948
Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277
(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)
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HE JOY OF THE GOSPEL (Part 3-Conclusion)

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL (Part 3-Conclusion)

“The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me”

Newsletter Sunday 2nd March 2014



I conclude my review of *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*. In the third chapter Pope Francis continues his discussion on Evangelization {again a short definition - to proclaim the “Good News” is the essence of evangelisation. In the Gospels, “the preaching of the Good News” is Jesus’ self definition of his mission or purpose. ‘To other towns I must announce the good news of the Kingdom of God, because that is why I was sent’ (Lk.4: 42-43).} as being the task of the entire People of God, without exception. It is not, nor could it be, reserved or delegated to any particular group. All baptized people are directly involved. Pope Francis explains, in the third chapter of the Exhortation, how evangelization may develop and the various stages which may indicate its progress. He is keen to underline the “the primacy of grace” which works tirelessly in the life of every evangelizer. He insists on rediscovering the value of popular piety as an expression of the genuine faith of many people who thereby give true testimony of their simple encounter with the love of God. The Pope also reflects on the homily as a privileged form of evangelization which requires an authentic passion and love for the Word of God and for the people to whom it is entrusted

The fourth chapter is given over to a reflection on the social dimension of evangelization. This is a theme which is dear to Pope Francis. He emphasises the link between the preaching of the Gospel and the promotion of human life in all of its expressions. This promotion of every human being must be holistic and capable of avoiding the relegation of religion to the private sphere, with no incidence in social and public life. A “faith which is authentic always implies a profound desire to change the world” Two great themes emerge in this section of the Exhortation: the “social inclusion of the poor” and “peace and social dialogue”. The particular evangelical passion with which the Pope speaks about them is indicative of his conviction that they will decide the future of humanity.

Some final quotes from *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*

Atheism: Today, our challenge is not so much atheism as the need to respond adequately to many people’s thirst for God. (89).

The Church: I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security. I do not want a Church concerned with being at the center and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures. (49).

Beware of the temptation of jealousy! We are all in the same boat and headed to the same port! Let us ask for the grace to rejoice in the gifts of each, which belong to all. (99)

Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey. (127).

Accompanying pregnant women: It is not “progressive” to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations? (214)

Jesus: We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence. ... How good it is to stand before a crucifix, or on our knees before the Blessed Sacrament, and simply to be in his presence! How much good it does us when he once more touches our

lives and impels us to share his new life! (264).

Mary Jesus left us his mother to be our mother. ... He brought us to her because he did not want us to journey without a mother, and our people read in this maternal image all the mysteries of the Gospel. The Lord did not want to leave the Church without this icon of womanhood. Mary, who brought him into the world with great faith, also accompanies “the rest of her offspring, those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus” (Rev 12:17). (285).

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00 am People of the Parish

Sat 6.30pm Larry Mulvihill

Mon 10.00am Con Harnett

Sun 8.30am Lily & Joe McGuirk

Tues 8.00 am St Joseph Honour & Thanksgiving

Sun 10.00am Tom Doyle

Tues 10.00 am Special intention

Sun 11.30am Isabelle & Jerry Byrne

Wed 8.00am Teresa Cunningham

Wed 10.00am Chrissie McKay

Sun 7.30 Dec mem of Sweetman, McGlynn & Andrews Family

Thurs 8.00am Margaret O'Brien

Thurs 10.00am John Gannon

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

Sat 10.00am Paul Burke

POLISH MASS

Holy Mass in **Polish Language**, will be celebrated on Sunday 9TH March at 6.45pm in St. Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 6.15pm & Msza 6.45pm)

Taizé: The Archdiocese of Dublin is running a pilgrimage for a group of young people from the Diocese to join thousand young Christians seeking friendship with Christ for a week away in France with the TAIZE Community from Sunday 29th June-Sunday 5th July. The trip costs €420 (this includes flights from Dublin to Lyon and contribution to the Community for your basic accommodation) - A deposit of €100 is required before the closing date: 18th April email your interest to: evangelisation@dublindiocese.ie. For further information check out www.taize.fr or facebook 'Taize Dublin'. Open to : 16 to 30 year old

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, says the Lord."

Lent

The season of Lent begins this Wednesday 5th February – Ash Wednesday. The Masses on this day are 8.00am; 10.00am and **7.30pm**

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Tuesday 4th March to Wednesday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses

Our parish Grouping - RETREAT

Brackenstown Parish are putting on a retreat, titled 'HEALING & HOPE: OUR CELEBRATION OF FAITH'. The timetable is detailed below. I thank Fr. Paul and his team for putting together this exciting week of prayer and reflection. All are invited to attend.

Lectio Divina-something for Lent

This is a wonderful way of praying by yourself but it also ideal as a group/fellowship way of praying which is very safe and not at all about revealing your innermost life experiences, thoughts or feelings. Our Parish is very lucky to have a well established prayer group. If you want to give it ago just visit the Parochial House, Seatown Rd, where this group meets every **Tuesday from 8.00 to 9.00pm**. If you desire further information you can contact Sr. Margaret or Sr. Mary, their phone number is in the Parish Calendar. It might be something to consider for Lent.



A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: Let the Creed be like a mirror for you. Look at yourself in it to see whether you really believe all that you claim to believe. And rejoice everyday in your faith.... St. Augustine 354-430

Brackenstown -2014 Parish Retreat: *Healing & Hope: Our Celebration Of Faith*

Sunday 2nd March to Friday 7th March will be a special time of prayer, renewal and celebration of our Faith. Each day of the Retreat there will be an early morning Mass at 7:30am, the usual 10:00am Mass and an Evening talk at 7:30pm. We will also have the blessing of families, children and expectant parents, as well as the Sacrament of the Sick. Confession will be available daily during the Retreat.

RETREAT PROGRAMME

Sunday 2nd March: 3:00pm *Blessing of families, babies, children and expectant parents.* Monday to Friday Mass at 7:30am

Monday 3rd March: 7:30pm *Let Get Ready for Lent*, Fr. Bryan Shortall, OFM Cap.

Tuesday 4th March: 7:30pm *Healing the pain of Bereavement*, Marie Gribbon

Wednesday 5th March: 7:30pm *The healing touch of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, (Padre Pio)* Sean Mulryan will lead the evening which concludes with a blessing of a first class relic.

Thurs 6th March: 1:15pm *Mass of Healing with Anointing of the Sick* Fr. Joe Walsh OFM

7:30pm *Youth Celebration of Faith* led by Fr. Cyril and the African Chaplaincy in Dublin

Friday 7th March: 7:30pm *Prayer Around the Cross in the Taizé tradition*

There will be a Prayer Wall in the Sacred Space beside the organ to Post your petitions. The Prayer of St. Francis Xavier will be said each from 4th March

All the sessions of the Retreat will be broadcast on the Parish Radio.

Liturgy Group.

There is a meeting on Thursday 6th March at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

Ministers of the Eucharist

There is an evening of prayer and practical input for MoE, in **Clonliffe College** on **Thursday 20th March from 7.45pm to 9.45pm.** The cost will be borne by the Parish. If you'd like to go please in Colette in the Parish Office. Tel: 01-8407277

St. Vincent de Paul

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

Ash Wednesday – 5th February.

This is a day of fast and abstinence and the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Why do we put ash on our forehead? - Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" emphasizes our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross. The work of our redemption will not be complete until we are raised from the dead, in resurrected bodies like His own and called to the eternal communion of heaven.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Vera Dowling

Ridgewood Green

Jean Stapleton

Dublin Road



SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina

Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday *Tues 3rd – Tues 10th June 2014, Adriatic Coast*

*Chioggia is a quaint picturesque town on the Venetian lagoon about 25km south of Venice. It is in fact known as “Little Venice” because of its narrow streets, hump back canals and is completely unspoilt and full of character. A bridge leads to the neighbouring island of Sottomarina with its long sandy beaches bordering the Adriatic. This is where we will be based for the week***Price: €870.00 per person sharing**

Price includes: Return flights Dublin-Venice 7 nights' accommodation : 4 star hotel; half board; B&B and Dinner., Day excursion to Venice by boat and day excursions to Ravenna and Padua

Extras: Single room supplement €25.00 per night for duration of stay Airport taxes: €85.00. baggage fee €40 Insurance: €36.00 (66+double premium applies)

. Please contact Colette at the Parish Office for booking (€250 deposit per person). Balance 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette: 8407277. Brochures at back of Church