

One of the reasons for this is that perhaps over the years we have come to have a very conformist and closed Catholicism. We can say that about conservative Catholics and about progressive Catholics. We all very quickly become closed in within our own ideas.

Pope Francis in his interview with the Jesuit magazine *La Civiltà Cattolica* spoke about the two poles of rigorism and laxism. Certainly Irish Catholicism had a strong rigorist tradition. Things were either black or white. Things were sinful or non-sinful and the only distinction was between mortal and venial and probably that meant “when in doubt make it mortal”.

Today there is a growing laxist tendency in society and also in the Church. We have lost the sense of sin and there is the temptation to think that anything goes.

Pope Francis is neither a rigorist nor a laxist because he realises that most people do not live in the absolute black and white of those who sit in judgement, but in the day to day struggle of life, striving to be good in the midst of the struggle between good and evil.

Pope Francis is not a relativist. He clearly sets himself within the tradition of the Church as regards doctrine.

Yet he realises that the men and woman of our times have to be met where they are and led into a deeper understanding of the real roots of the message of Jesus. “Pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed”.

People must be led to the very heart of the Gospel from which then they will not only begin to understand the teachings, but will embrace the meaning, the beauty and the attractiveness of the Gospel. *To be continued next week*

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00am Jim Thomas

Mon 10.00am Special Intention

Tues 8.00am Eileen Crosbie

Tues 10.00am Paddy Barker

Kathleen Taylor & Chrissie Dunne & family

Wed 8.00am Stephen Cleary

Wed 10.00am Bill Wiggins

Leo & Brendan Swan

Thurs 8.00 am Isobel Grogan

Thurs 10.00am Josie Battams

Fri 8.00 Isobel Grogan

Fri 10.00am Stephen Farrell

Sat 10.00 am Kitty Nulty

Sat 6.30 pm Cora Duffy

Rose Brennan MM

Sun 8.30am Bartle McDonnell

Sun 11.30am Bridie & Joe Cain

Sun 7.30 pm Ellen McGrane

Stephen Cleary MM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

The Visitation of the BVM

Drynam Mass Times for July and August: Mon, Tue, Wed each week: 9.20 am

Sun: 10.00 am and 12.00 am

Regular 9.20 am Mass on Fridays and 11.00am Irish Mass on Sundays will resume in September.



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Anne Fox

Baldoyle

Ashling Lenihan



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)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living the Joy of the Gospel

“Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long”

Newsletter Sunday 24th August 2014

Speaking about Pope Francis and his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin addressed a Catholic Leadership Forum of priests, school principals and archdiocesan agency leaders gathered at the Catholic Leadership Centre, Melbourne on 14 July 2014

“A few weeks ago I was speaking with a Parish Priest in my diocese who told me that he was a little worried about his Curate. He said that his curate was a hard worker and that he got on reasonably well with people, but that he had a problem.

I asked what this problem was and the Parish Priest replied that the problem was with a person and when I asked further, to my surprise the answer was *Pope Francis*.

The curate was not at all happy with some of the utterances of Pope Francis which he felt were not in line with what he had learned in the seminary and he felt that this was making the faithful insecure and even encouraging those who do not hold the orthodox Catholic belief to challenge traditional teaching.

My reply to the parish priest that now we had a problem and that this young man seemed to be the one whose security was being upset.

Later I began to reflect on this situation. This young curate is not the only one who feels upset by the way Pope Francis speaks about some things. There are those who say that he is a communist because of his concern for the poor and his trenchant criticism of some aspects of today's market economy.

The more I reflected however the more I came to the conclusion that it was Pope Francis who has the problem and the problem was with us, with all of us. We all fall into the temptation of reading Pope Francis superficially and selectively.

All of us are pleased with what Pope Francis says when he says things we like. He has a remarkable talent for the one liner which instantly strikes us and makes us feel that he is someone who is not afraid to speak the truth clearly. Pope Francis has indeed a remarkable talent to work within the world of twitter in his ability to fit deep messages into few words.

Similarly we are all very impressed at many of the gestures of Pope Francis and especially at the consistency with which he retains the simplicity of his own life style. But it is easier to admire his lifestyle than to imitate it.

Pope Francis is someone who has the courage to break away from accepted traditions and thought patterns, while most of us are trapped in traditions without often fully realising it.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him/her up on the last day."

Living the Paschal Mystery

Without detracting from the primacy of Peter and the Chair of Peter, nonetheless we also share in building up the church each time we are faithful to who Jesus is. Church isn't something we go to once a week, but it is an *identity* we share as members of the Body of Christ into which we were initiated at baptism. We build up the Body, the church, any time we reach out to another in need and respond as Christ would. We build up this Body, the church, every time we gather as liturgical assembly to give God praise and thanks. We build up his Body, the church, any time we forgive, give an encouraging word, show mercy and compassion. In all these and many other ways we are not only building up the church but also witnessing to our identity as church – as the presence of the risen Christ made visible in and through us. Such an identity we share! (*Source: Living Liturgy*)

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE Man is neither angel nor beast, and unfortunately anyone who tries to make an angel out of him makes him a beast
.... Blaise Pascal (1588-1651)

St. Colmcille's GRAVEYARD – Hidden History

To mark National Heritage Week, Swords Historical Society invite you to walk around St. Colmcille's graveyard with them. The theme is "Hear the stories of those there – an insight into the Swords of other days". The walk will take place next **Sunday 31st August at 3.30pm.**
If it is raining, gather in the Church

Standing Orders

Over 80 houses have received notification from the Parish concerning the closure of our account by Danske Bank. The letter requests the setting up of a new standing order. To date we have received back around 40. Thank you to all who have done so. Can I prevail upon the outstanding recipients to return as soon as possible? *Thank You*

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords - Next Meeting :25th August. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.
Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

Feast This Week

St. Monica– Wednesday 27th August. c332-87, converted her pagan husband, Patricius to the faith, and by her prayers and tears brought her son St. Augustine to Christianity and a moral life. Patron saint of mothers.

Saint Augustine – Thursday 28th August 354-430. He was converted at the age of thirty-three and baptized by St. Ambrose. He became Bishop of Hippo(Algeria), where he lived with a community until his death. His theological influence has been most significant in the Church, especially on the understanding of God's grace. Patron of theologians.

The Passion of St. John the Baptist– Friday 29th August – The gospels relate how St. John fearlessly condemned Herod Antipas's unlawful marriage to Herodias, who had been previously married to his half-brother. The outraged Herodias had him imprisoned. In a moment of weakness Herod promised to grant the heart's desire of Salome, the daughter of Herodias. She asked for John the Baptist's head, which was promptly fetched for her. Thus the Precursor of the Lord preceded his master through his passion

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Jesus presses the question, who do you say I am? we feel him speaking to us. Naturally, we think of our faith now in the light of our own journey of life and pilgrimage of faith. How did I start out? What was my image of Jesus then and how did I relate to him? Have there been a major turning point for me and can I name one or two? How have I deepened my familiarity with Jesus and who is he for me now?

If I were to choose an image or a metaphor what would come to mind? If I were to explain to someone what my faith in Jesus is, what words would I use?

Prayer - I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love (Ep 3:14-17).

The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend

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 collection dates for 2014 are: w/e 22nd/23rd Feb; 18th/19th May; 30th/31st Aug and 29th/30th Nov

Two collectors for each weekend Mass would be required. If you volunteer for this task please leave your name with Stephanie

St. Colmcille's - Summer Schedule

There will be no 10.00am Sunday Morning Mass from next Sunday until 14th September when it will resume. There is a 10.00am Mass in the Church of the Visitation, Drynam and St. Finian's, River Valley Feast this Week