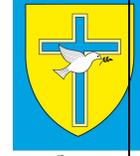


Swords - St. Colmcille's / Deynam - Our Lady of the Visitation

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

Swords

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord- Sunday 2nd **February 2014**



The Gospel according to Matthew (Part 2)

"A light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel"

Matthew's purpose in writing his Gospel

Matthew is both a faithful transmitter of traditions he has received from the early church about Jesus and the Christian life and, at the same time, a creative shaper of those traditions into new combinations with new emphasis. He has a number of purposes in writing: to instruct and exhort members of his community; perhaps to provide liturgical reading and sermon/homily material; but also to offer a missionary address to outsiders of goodwill as well as a defence and a challenge to harsh critics and rivals.

In short it can be concluded that Matthew's primary intent was to write a handbook for church leaders to assist them in preaching, teaching, worship and mission. But his handbook is not an academic study but about a living person, Jesus Christ and it is focussed on Christ and his kingdom as the good news of salvation

All four gospels give an account of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. They also give an account of Jesus' three years of missionary work. Also all the gospels speak of John the Baptist and his baptising of Our Lord. Mark's gospel starts with Jesus as a grown man and his baptism. Matthew and Luke start with the 'infancy narratives' and John goes back to the beginning, 'In the beginning was the Word...'

Matthew's gospel is planned into seven sections as follows:

Birth and Infancy of Jesus – Chapters 1-2

The Kingdom of Heaven announced – Chapters 3-7

The Kingdom of heaven preached – Chapters 8-10

The Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven – Chapters 11.1-13.52

The Church, first fruits of the Kingdom – Chapters 13.53-18

The Approaching Advent of the Kingdom – Chapters 19-25

Passion and Resurrection – Chapters 26-28



Unique to Matthew

Unique to Matthew are the following: Genealogy of Jesus from Abraham to Joseph, husband of Mary (Mt.1:1-16). The Magi, the flight into Egypt and the massacre of the Innocents with its recurring 'dreams' (Mt.2). Also his Sermon on the Mount with its (eight) Beatitudes. (Mt.5) and the 'Our Father' that we pray comes from Matthew (Mt.6.7-13). In Jesus' reinterpretation of the Old Law, Matthew uses the wonderful teaching formula: 'You have heard how it was said....but I say this to you' (Mt.5: 21-48).

In Matthew's Gospel we see how John the Baptist didn't think it appropriate that he should baptise Jesus, but rather it should be the other way around (Mt.3:13-17). Lastly Matthew has the powerful account of the Last Judgement, in the form of the separation of the sheep and the goats (Mt.25:31-46). This gospel has been an inspiration to many: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome, lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me". This is challenging to us and yet very possible, it is the ministry of care in action.

Conclusion

To conclude; I mentioned in the first newsletter how Matthew's gospel has served as the foundation document of the church, rooting in it the teaching of Jesus – a church built on a rock against which the gates of hell would not prevail (only Matt.16:18). He makes clear that Peter is the head of the apostles (Mt.10:2), and that the apostles share the authority of Christ himself (Mt.9:8;10:40;). As a court of final appeal there is Peter (Mt.16:19). Since power is dangerous, though necessary, the leaders need humility (Mt.18:1-9). Matthew has no illusions about the church. Anyone can fall (even Peter, Mt.26:69-75): prophets can be false (Mt.7:15) and the church is a mixture of saint and sinner until the final sorting out (Mt.13:36-43). Nevertheless, the church is called to worldwide mission (Mt.28:18-20). The style of apostolic or missionary life is described in Mt.9:36-11:1. Finally the theme of the whole gospel is that of a covenant in which God is united with his people through Jesus Christ (Mt.1:23 and 28:18-20). The outcasts of old Israel (Mt.21:31-32), together with the Gentile converts, become the new people of God (Mt.21:43). Matthews gospel begins with a statement from Isaiah: "Emmanuel..God is with us" (Mt.1:23). The gospel ends with a similar statement of God's continuing presence-after the resurrection the gospel writer brackets the entire story when he records Jesus' final words: "**I am with you always; yes, to the end of time**" (Mt.28:20)

Over the past weeks I have attempted to give a flavour of Matthew's gospel. I hope it is a help to your reading of the Gospel and to your prayer.

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00 am Eleanor Greany

Mon 10.00am Sheila Maher

Tues 8.00 am Patrick Heron

Tues 10.00 am Joe Humphries

Wed 8.00am Bartle McDonnell Jnr

Wed 10.00am Martin Walsh & Mary Clune

Thurs 8.00am Des Becton

Thurs 10.00am Sean Melia

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Peter Carberry

Sat 10.00am John & Jeanette Boyle

Sat 6.30pm Frank King

Sun 8.30am Molly & Paddy O'Keefe &
Jacqueline Monaghan

Sun 10.00am Daniel Burke

Sun 11.30am William Howard & Sandra Pawley
Josephine McGuirk (MM)

Sun 7.30pm Thomas, Annie & James McKenna

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Joseph Rybansky Father of Fr Eugene Rybansky, Rivervalley

Yvonne Curry England

Agnes Murphy Turnapin Cottages

Matthew Hanlon Beaumont

The Visitation of the BVM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

Foreoige has provisionally moved their meeting for young teenagers from Tuesday to Monday nights at 7:30PM. To participate or volunteer, visit www.foreoige.ie. **Teas today after all Masses**



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "Lord, now let your servant go in peace, in accordance with your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation. Which you have prepared in the sight of all peoples"

World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day – We thank and pray especially for Srs. Margaret and Mary and of course Sr. Patrick. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

St. Colmcille's Parish Schools

I congratulate the 2nd class boys and girls who will receive/make their first confession this week. It is another important step on their sacramental journey. They have done an enormous amount of work and preparation and for this I thank especially their class teachers: GNS: Ms. McMonagle and Ms. O'Flaherty; BNS: Ms Sweeney, Ms Kilkenny, Ms Powell & Sr Mary . The boys will make their confession on Tuesday 4th February at 7.30pm and the girls on Wednesday 5th February at 7.30pm.

Shrines

The parish has maintained the cost of a candle at 20c, which I believe to be very reasonable given the cost of candles. Please I ask you to respect this charge of 20c per **ONE** candle. The shrines are a significant source of parish income. Can I also invite parents to supervise their children in lighting candles for the most important reason of avoiding them getting burnt and the secondary reason of stopping them for getting 'carried away' in the lighting. Thank You.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE

Faith means putting up with God's incomprehensibility for a lifetime. ..Karl Rahner (1904-1984 Theologian)

Reflection - The Presentation of the Lord

Our Gospel today describes two very old people – Simeon and Anna – who are very attractive in their old age. They have lived prayerful lives of faith and, in particular, of hope and expectation. Being wise, they are people of discernment and they recognise the moment of grace, the coming of the Messiah. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be like them in old age? The secret is to be now what we hope to be then. If we wish to be serene, wise, discerning, full of faith – then now is the time: See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! (2 Cor 6:2).



Prayer - Abba, Father, God of all time, you call us to become your children. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may live our faith serenely in the present moment and give us grace to recognise the time of your appearing.

SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina

Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday Tuesday 3rd – Tuesday 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: €795.00 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 (€150 deposit per person). Balance of €100 by the end of January and remainder 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette: 8407277.

Brochures at back of Church

Liturgy Team Meeting

This will take place on **Thursday 6th February** in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd., at **7.30pm**

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH- a series of talks in All Hallows College on Tuesday evenings in March.

4th March: Healing for a Wounded Church: Diagnosis and Treatment

11th March: A More Authentic Church: How might it look?

18th March: ‘Repair My Church’; The Challenge to Pope Francis

25th March: Signs of Hope: Stirrings within the People of God

For further details contact All Hallows telephone 01- 8520178

Conversion/Repentance – “Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand” Mt. 4.17

Conversion has to do with crossing over, with changing of direction, with a shifting of position. It means letting go of one situation or position, and moving to another one. It’s basically about change and change is gradual. Blessed John Henry Newman put it beautifully when he said, ‘*to live is to change, and to become holy or whole is to have changed often*’. When I speak of change, or moving away from something, what am I talking about? It’s what Christian doctrine refers to as the seven deadly sins:

Pride; covetousness; lust; gluttony; envy; anger and sloth. In modern language it would look as follows: Considering myself as superior to others; being jealous of what they have, and begrudging them their success; using others to meet your own needs, and confusing this with love; once again, we have the green eyed monster of envy or begrudgery, and an inability to rejoice in another’s success; anger is just another word for wounded pride, because someone dared rain on my parade; and lastly, we have sins of omission, where I’m always going to get around to doing the good, but just not yet!