

### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

It is a moving experience each year on Palm Sunday as we go up the mountain with Jesus, towards the Temple, accompanying him on his ascent. But what we are really doing when we join this procession as part of the throng which went up with Jesus to Jerusalem and hailed him as King of Israel? Does it have anything to do with the reality of our life and our world? To answer this, we must first be clear about what Jesus himself wished to do and actually did. He was journeying towards the Temple in the Holy City, towards that place which for Israel ensured in a particular way God's closeness to his people. The ultimate goal of his pilgrimage was the heights of God himself; to those heights he wanted to lift every human being. Our procession today is meant, then, to be an image of something deeper, to reflect the fact that, together with Jesus, we are setting out on pilgrimage along the high road that leads to the living God. *Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

### **Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Daniel Gillespie	<b>Sat</b> 9.00pm Easter Mass Bouquet Cards
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Oliver Morton	
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am John & Kathleen O'Connor	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Easter Mass Bouquet Cards
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Annie Conroy	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Easter Mass Bouquet Cards
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Patrick Larmon	<b>Sun</b> 12.30pm Easter Mass Bouquet Cards
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Michael & Mary Vesey	

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

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

Easter Cards and a Newsletter on the new Church Project are being delivered to all houses in Drynam area at the moment. There will be a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting tomorrow Monday at 8:00pm  
There will be no morning Mass in Drynam this week.



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

When we examine our conscience prior to going to Confession, we usually ask ourselves, 'What sins have I committed?' We rarely look at our sins of omission, which may well be our worst sins. We may think we are good simply because we don't do anyone any harm, But, what about the good we fail to do?

From a Christian point of view, there is only one real failure in life – the failure to love. If one's love is active, failure to reach perfection in other areas of one's life will be forgiven. But there is no substitute for active love.

Confessions for Lent: St. Colmcille's – Holy Thursday 12.30pm to 1.00pm and after the 7.30pm Mass. **Good Friday** 10.00am to 11.30am and **Holy Saturday** 12noon to 1.00pm. **Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam – Good Friday** after 12 noon Stations of the Cross. **Penitential Services: River Valley** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm and **Brackenstown – Tuesday** 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm



**Anam Cara**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April from 7pm to 9pm in B.A.S.E Brackenstown Road, Swords, This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.

**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**



Passion (Palm) Sunday

**HOLY WEEK**

*“Hosanna to the Son of David”*

Newsletter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017



Passion Sunday, or Palm Sunday as it is more popularly known, begins Holy Week. On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. All four evangelists (Gospel writers) record this event and underline its importance. Jesus is presented as the Messiah-King, entering and taking possession of his city. He comes, however, not as a warrior-king advancing with a great army, but as a humble and gentle Messiah. He fulfils the prophecy of Zechariah: 'Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious he is, humble and riding on an ass' (Zc.9: 9.).

The blessing of the palms at the beginning of Mass heralds the victory of Easter Sunday, but the readings, which follow, plunge us into the atmosphere of Good Friday. Christ will indeed conquer, but it will be through his passion and death.

The gospels of Holy Week provide an insightful backdrop

### Monday (Jn.12:1-11)

Irony according to the dictionary is 'the use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning'. In today's gospel by St. John, words and events are presented with irony. Christ has given Lazarus back his life, raised him from the dead, and his opponents want to end Jesus' life. They want to kill the one who gives and restores life! What irony! His enemies may not have seen it that way, but John expects us his readers to see the irony. As a reflection for ourselves we should be mindful that at times our actions and words are so opposed to what we claim to hold dear

### Tuesday (Jn.13:21-33, 36-38)

Judas and Peter reflect tendencies and actions within ourselves. Both show us disloyalty and response to failure. We may not go the whole way with Judas in betraying the Lord, but like Peter we may let Jesus down when faced with the demands of discipleship. Very often we are not generous enough. But as Jesus says to Peter, "you will follow later" (Jn.13:36). Discipleship has its ups and downs, very often it is one step forward and two back. Lent has been a journey to prepare us to reaffirm our choice and renew our baptismal commitment to the Lord. How often we are like Peter in that we promise to follow the Lord and then the next day (or the next hour!) go completely against that promise.

### Wednesday (Mt.26:14-25)

Matthew says that Judas, after being paid thirty pieces of silver for the betrayal, "looked for an opportunity to hand him over". (Mt.26:16). Today, 2011 years later we can't say that Judas and a group of chief priests and Pharisees killed the Christ. The rejection and the crucifixion continue daily. In so far as we hurt others through gossip and slander and ride roughshod over people for our own purposes, we have a hand in Jesus' death. Jesus is crucified every time a human being is degraded, treated unjustly and deprived of freedom. The final week of Lent is a great opportunity to celebrate the death and resurrection of the Lord in a way that will change our lives.

I would like to thank in advance all the hard work and preparation by the choirs, music groups, ministry teams, volunteers and sacristans as we journey this week towards the Easter Triduum. I hope that you find the Liturgies beautiful and prayerful.

*Fr. Michael Carey*

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon –Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done*



### HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

The dates and times of the Holy Week ceremonies, in Swords and Drynam including confessions are on the Easter cards distributed to your homes and on the notice boards in the Churches

### The Holy Oils

The Holy Oils are: The Oil of Catechumens; The Oil of Chrism and the Oil of the Sick. The Oils reminds us of how our fundamental unity within the Archdiocese is built upon the sacramental life of the Church which these oils represent. The oils represent our initiation into the life of grace and into the Church in Baptism and Confirmation. The oils represent the special consecration of priestly ministry. They represent the community which brings Christ's care in a special way to the sick and those at the end of their life. These oils remind us that the Church is the community within which we realise how our entire life is embraced by the loving care of God.

### 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!

### Holy Week

As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to participate as much as possible in the Parish Ceremonies, especially the Triduum. **The readings and liturgies are powerful, so please do come along** The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is usually the least well attended liturgy and it is a beautiful Mass. On Good Friday, if for work or other reason you cannot make the 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, please make sure to visit some church and venerate the cross. You then have the option of the Solemn Vigil or the Easter Sunday Mass.

### Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** The Group meet on the second & last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road .Next Meeting 10th April. For further information please phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086\_6006397 after 6.00pm

### Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3\* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the “Old City” while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

**Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is subject to availability.**

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)\* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)\* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)\* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18\* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.\* Entrance fees where applicable.

This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111** MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

### Easter Cards

The Easter cards are being distributed if people can help with the few that are remaining it would be greatly appreciated. A sincere thank you to all who have delivered cards this far.

### St. Vincent de Paul-Advocate Collection

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up after all Masses **this** weekend. This will be the Palm Sunday Advocate Collection aimed especially at providing a holiday in Sunshine House, Balbriggan for children.

### Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

In today's Gospel, Jesus dies with the words: “It is accomplished.” This Gospel begins with the words “In the beginning” and in John 20 we are told that the Risen Lord “breathed on” the apostles. These details remind us consistently of Genesis 1-2, where we read, “In the beginning God created heaven and earth” (Gen 1:1); “on the seventh day God had completed the work he had been doing” (Gen 2:2); blew the breath of life into his nostrils, (Gen 2:7). The evangelist is teaching us “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation” (2 Cor 5:17). (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

### Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

At this Mass, **7.30pm** this coming Thursday, the Ministers of the Eucharist in Swords renew their dedication to this Ministry. I hope as many as possible can attend this Mass