

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

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2nd Sunday of Lent

### LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS TO FAMILIES

*“Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me”*



**Newsletter Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of "pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization". Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task.

I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. *Lk 2:22-38*). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally "seen" salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey. Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord. **From the Vatican, 2 February 2014**  
*Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

*Fr. Michael Carey Adm*



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

**Mon** 8.00 am Maurice O'Brien

**Sat 6.30pm** Elizabeth mcGuinness

**Mon** 10.00am John Allen &

Kathleen Lee

Baby Marcus Allen

**Mon** 11.30 am Alan Caul & Olive Bolger

**Sun 8.30am** Anthony Casciani

**Tues** 8.00 Special Intention

**Sun 10.00am** McKitterick Family

**Tues** 10.00am Special intention

**Sun 11.30am** Anne & John Greene

**Wed** 8.00am Patrick Halpin

**Wed** 10.00am Servant of God, Alphonas Lambe

**Thurs** 8.00am Dr Kevin Greenan

**Sun 7.30** Alan Leetch

**Thurs** 10.00am Jack, Catherine & Judy Howard

**Fri** 8.00am Mary Kate Finnerty

**Fri** 10.00am Tom Nulty

**Sat** 10.00am Michael Gaffney

Vera Dowling MM

**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Kathleen Taylor**

**Balheary Road**

**Josephine Brangan**

**Mount Drynam Crescent**



**The Visitation of the BVM**

**Church of the Visitation Drynam**

Second Sunday of Lent. Our Lenten Garden already shows signs of improvement. Litter has been removed and today it will be weeded. Have we managed to remove any litter from our spiritual lives in the last week?



**Second Sunday of Lent**

Every so often, we catch a glimpse of the "something more" that God has in store for us. These fleeting experiences are to be treasured: the birth of my first child, falling in love, a sense of "being held" by God's presence. Such experiences may help us approach the Transfiguration. Like all transcendent experiences, it is fleeting and yet it etches a memory and leaves a longing. What should we do? Practice listening to him. Be not afraid. We cannot always be "on the mountain" and yet what happens on the heights can help us on the lowlands of the everyday.

**Prayer** Lord, listening sounds so easy and yet is such hard work! Guide us as we listen to your Son, whose word is live, who is himself the Way, the Truth and the Life

**Sometimes I wish..**

Sometimes I wish my life was easier.  
But there are so many things to be done,  
so many problems to be solved.  
Sometimes I want to change other people  
but am but am unwilling to change myself.

Lord grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

*Flor McCarthy*

### ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."*

#### **Lenten Wilderness**

I want to thank the Liturgy Team for the beautiful Lenten Wilderness which adorns the Sanctuary area – simple ideas though took a few hours to create and I hope it assists your prayer. Do keep an 'eye' on it – it will change as we progress through Lent



#### **Stations of Cross**

I want to thank Colette for creating the beautiful Stations which are placed 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.*

#### **DO THIS IN MEMORY**

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE:** No one lives alone, no one believes alone. God speaks his word to us and in speaking it calls us together, creates a community, his people, his Church. After the return of Jesus to his Father the Church is the sign of his presence in the world.... **St. Basil the Great, 5<sup>th</sup> century**

#### **Ministers of the Eucharist-St. Colmcille's**

All Ministers of the Eucharist in St. Colmcille's are invited to 75 minutes of prayer, practical considerations and light refreshments on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. I would really appreciate if you could make this gathering-it will also be used to arrange the Easter Timetable



#### **Ministers of the Word – St. Colmcille's**

All Ministers of the Word in St. Colmcille's are invited to 75 minutes of prayer, practical considerations and light refreshments on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Parish Church. I would really appreciate if you could make this gathering- it will also be used to arrange the Easter Timetable



**Fundraising Concert in aid of St. Colmcille's Church** will take place on **Friday 9th May at 7.30.p.m.** in St. Colmcille's Church, An Evening of Traditional Music and Song with Garry O'Meara International Soloist and Special Guests. Tickets €10 can be purchased from Paddy Gerrard, 087 4170075, Susan Kenna, 086 8152255, Maria O Connor, Drynam Parish, 087 6771374, The Sacristy, and other volunteer Ticket Sellers in the Parish.

### **SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina**

**Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday** *Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tues 10<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **Evening Mass in River Valley**

If you desire to go to Mass for Lent and the mornings don't suit, there is an evening Mass in St. Finian's River Valley at 7.30pm Monday to Friday for the season of Lent

### **Ministers of the Eucharist**

There is an evening of prayer and practical input for MoE, in **Clonliffe College** on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Saint Patrick - Patron of Ireland**

It would no doubt take the modest St Patrick by surprise to know how widely his feast is celebrated and marked! We know something of the man himself from the few documents which have come down to us. His return to those who enslaved him shows great character; even more outstanding is his commitment to Jesus Christ, the Scriptures (his writings are full of allusions), and to his calling as apostle and evangelist. The spark of faith has shone among the Irish, sometimes brightly, sometimes dimly, ever since. Let us mark the feast with thanksgiving and renewed faith.

**Prayer** - Father, you brought the Gospel to life among the Irish by the preaching

of the great St Patrick. Help us rediscover again the spark of faith, that it may shine brightly once more among us.

