

number 14 in the top 25 poorest countries. More than 51% of the people survive on \$1.90 a day. Only 30% percent of males' complete secondary school, and 17% of females, compared to a figure of 86% in Ireland. Deadly statistics indeed. Each of these children are flesh and blood and all are precious to God who formed them in the womb. This is a poverty that stunts growth and destroys lives. This is a poverty that incarcerates and destroys lives.

In Ireland, we have plenty of this world's material goods. This Lent you might consider adopting one family whom you can materially support. Lent is an opportunity to share the things we take for granted. In doing so, you are tightly coupling the two great commandments to love of God and love of neighbour. Lent is not just about preparing for the dying and rising of Jesus. It is also about the dying and rising of the poor and those who are held captive by grinding poverty in countries like Sierra Leone. The prayer the Church prays for the poor does not end with prayer, but we must also work to ensure that the chains that bind poor people are broken.

Pope Francis concluded the beatification ceremony for Blessed Solanus Casey, O.F.M with these words: "I hope that the poor will always be at the centre of our communities, not only on occasions like this, but always, because they are in the heart of the Gospel, and in them we meet Jesus who speaks to us and appeals to us through their sufferings and their needs." In God's vision we are a single family, each woman and man an image of the same God, each person a sister or brother, each cradled in Bethlehem and embraced on Calvary. The persistent question as I travel this Lent with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem is: Do I hear their cries? (*Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2018*).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special Intention	Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer (No Mass)
Mon 10.00am Special Intention	
Tues 8.00am Bernadette Gillen	Sat 6.30pm Patrick & Mary Kate Gallagher
Tues 10.00am Desmond Walsh	
Wed 8.00am Edith Quinn	Sun 8.30am Jerry Ryan
Wed 10.00am Margaret Jackson	
Thurs 8.00am Helen Brophy	Sun 11.00 Maria Coleman
Thurs 10.00am Tommy Sherlick	Paddy Kelly & Ted & Alice
Fri 8.00am Delia O'Donohue	
Fri 10.00am Catherine Geoghegan	Sun 6.30pm Peggy & Johnny Reid

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

Next Sunday St. Vincent de Paul will have their monthly collection after Mass.

Changes on our Journey

My love, let us love each other always even when things change because of health or sickness. Let us remain in love and in dignity.

If I am old or weak or weary or difficult, do not become nervous or give up on me.

I pray with you in the Lord that you will find

- Strength for your burden
- A way to listen and to be patient and that you will receive support as you support me.

Work at continuing to love and understand me as we have always struggled to do together, loving one another. Amen

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

1st Sunday of Lent

TROCAIRE

"When he calls on me, I will answer him"

Newsletter Sunday 18th February 2018



Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around!

The Trocaire boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information. This year's Trocaire Lenten campaign

focuses upon the Koroma family in Freetown, Sierra Leone who were affected by recent landslides in their area. This tragic event affected the Koroma family in various ways and cost them their home, possessions, work tools and changed the course of this families future forever. Join Trocaire in prayer and thanksgiving this Lenten season to celebrate the resilience, hope and steadfast spirit of the Koroma family and the people of Sierra Leone. **Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.**

Msgr. Dermot Farrell, Parish Priest of Dunboyne and Bishop elect of the Ossory Diocese, who travelled with Trocaire to Sierra Leone in November 2017, has the following to say on this 1st Sunday of Lent.

The Gospel for the first Sunday of Lent is the story of the temptation in the desert. The three temptations Jesus faced in the desert are temptations every person faces in life. Perhaps not the exact same things, but his temptations represent three classic ways that we resist the Jesus' own programme on earth as we find in the four gospels. For example, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Lk 4:18).

Having dealt with the three classic temptations, Jesus is ready for his mission. Our challenge throughout Lent is to travel with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. At every point in the Gospels, we are meant to identify with Jesus in his mission.

At the very heart of the Gospel are the poor. For example, in the story of the rich young man Jesus responds to his question by detailing many of the Commandments. The young man takes this in, and replies, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood." So Jesus looks at and says, "Go and sell what you have and give to the poor. After then come follow me."

This teaching has its roots in the prophets who continually rail against those who are indifferent to the poor. The challenge when faced with poverty on a gigantic scale is not to get trapped in isolation and indifference or to resort to easy clichés: 'it's the government's problem', or 'they are lazy' or 'they won't work.' If you spend time with the poor, you cannot be indifferent to their plight.

This year Trocaire has chosen a family from Sierra Leone as the Lenten family. This family lives in one of the poorest countries in the world where life expectancy is just 51 years of age. The majority of children in Sierra Leone are born into poverty and 12% of children under 5, die in infancy. The adult literacy rate is 48 %, compared to a global literacy rate of more than 80 percent. The scarcity of teachers and resources makes primary education difficult to make available to all. With a GDP per capita of \$1,529, it is ranked

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words....
Please... Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-24th February, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 1

Confirmation Classes

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and their families and praying with them.

First Sunday of Lent

Lent coincides with springtime and in fact the word itself probably comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning the lengthening of the days that occurs in spring. And indeed spring is not a bad image for Lent. Spring is the time of new life when the long nights of winter become a thing of the past. It is a time when the hearts of many people lift. Lent offers the possibility to renew and reawaken the life of the spirit and so is a season of joy. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

World Meeting of Families (WMOF) – reflection

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. (*Amoris Laetitia*, 56)

Quote from 'Love one another as I have loved you' by Fr. Gareth Byrne.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet this Monday 19th February at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee will meet this Tuesday 20th February at 2.30pm in the Parochial House.

Save the Date

The Archdiocese of Dublin's Knock Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday April 21st 2018. Theme: "We are Pilgrims – Knock invites us to Healing and Peace". Full programme to be announced soon.

Accord

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses **this weekend 17th/18th February**. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. 'Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, is a unique sacrament in that its essence is not about a special additional blessing, marriage is about a human reality. It is about a human relationship which is so vital for the good of humanity that it is raised to the level of a sacrament. The human reality of marriage becomes a witness to the love Christ has for his Church and draws its strength from that love of Jesus Christ' (Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – Accord letter)



Season of Lent

Forms of Friday Penance

The following are suggestions from the Bishop's Conference on ways of fulfilling Friday penance: *Abstaining from meat or some other food;*Abstaining from alcoholic drink or smoking;*Making a special effort at involvement in family prayer;*Making a special effort to participate in Mass on Friday's;*Visiting a Church or the Blessed Sacrament;*Making the stations of the Cross;*Fasting from all food for a longer period than usual and perhaps giving what is saved to the needy;*Helping the poor, sick, old or lonely.

Entrust your cares to the Lord, and he will support you.

In Lent we are encouraged to give something up, to deny ourselves and abstain. Many choose to deny themselves things like chocolate, sweets or alcohol; others reduce their use of social media such as *Twitter*, *Facebook* or *Instagram*. How we fast or deny ourselves is something only we can discern. Our fasting isn't an end in itself but rather a way we become aware of our dependence on and need of God. We deny ourselves those things which give us pleasure so as to delight and draw near to the One who is the source of all pleasure and delight. Let's not just fast from food or drink. Let us also fast from saying unkind or hurtful words, from sadness and walking around with a glum face and from anger, resentment and bitterness. (Source: *Walk with Me – Lent 2018*)

Make-A-Wish Ireland Annual Wish Day – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make-A-Wish Ireland has one simple aim – we grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. Volunteers are needed for WISH DAY, our annual fundraising day, on Friday 9th March 2018. There are a number of ways you could get involved, volunteer to sell our bands, hold a coffee morning or bake sale. If you can commit to the full day or even a few hours selling our bands, please visit www.makeawish.ie to register online at one of our collection points. or contact Emma Horgan emma@makeawish.ie or call 01 2052011 for more details.

World Meeting of Families

Please support the third National Collection for WMOF2018 which will be taken up in our parish next weekend - 24 & 25 February 2018.

