

always bring with us this caress from God – because God has caressed us with His mercy – to those who are in need of it, to those who have suffering in their heart or who are sad. We must approach them with that caress from God, which is the same one God gave to us". Francis concluded his catechesis by expressing his hope that the Jubilee may contribute to helping our mind and our heart to be profoundly aware of God's commitment to each one of us, and in this way, transform our life in a commitment to mercy for all. **Fr. Michael Carey**

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Special Intention	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Irene O'Keefe	
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Fintan Delamere	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Esther & William Spencer	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Charlie Clarke
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Mary Greenan	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Cornelious Donovan	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Devin O'Toole
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Special Intention	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00 In Honour of Precious Blood	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Bridget & John McNulty
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Kathleen White	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm Stephen Cleary
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am In Thanksgiving	

**Church of the Visitation Drynam    The Visitation of the BVM**  
**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 12 noon , No weekday Masses until 18th July**  
 Bo Peep Montessori will again use the Drynam Church Hall for a Summer Camp for young children during July and August this year.

**Viatores Christi (VC):**  
 We request your help in our ongoing Mission to serve those in most need at home and overseas. VC does this by recruiting, training and placing skilled people where they are needed and where there is nobody else locally with the required skills or profession. We work with Irish missionaries and their local counterparts and projects who show immense commitment and dedication to walking in solidarity with the most marginalised in our world. We need - Teachers, community/youth development workers, accountants, business/marketing professionals, IT specialists, OT/Physios/SL Therapists, Farmers, Pastoral Workers needed for overseas development assignments with Irish missionaries. Learn more - Viatores Christi (VC) Tel. 01 8689986 apply@viatoreschristi.com www.viatoreschristi.com

**The Bible's Most Important People**  
**Hannah** – Hannah could not bear a child, but her husband, Elkanah, loved her, though his second wife reviled her. Distraught, Hannah went to the temple to pray and promised God that if He gave her a child, she would give the boy to Him for his whole life. As she fervently prayed, Eli the priest mistook her praying for drunkenness; then he discovered how wrong he had been. In time, Hannah conceived and bore Samuel. The couple brought the boy to Eli to foster. Samuel became a powerful prophet of Israel.

**Lough Derg**  
 There are a number of ways to travel to/from Lough Derg for the Three Day Pilgrimage Season up until 15th August. A poster detailing both organised group travel and public bus transport from the Dublin area is on the church notice board or contact Lough Derg direct on 071 9861518

**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**



14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Mercy and commitment**

*“Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple”*

**Newsletter Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016**

Earlier on this Year, the Pope gave a catechesis (teaching) on the theme of the commitment Christians are called to make to offer a concrete sign of God's closeness to the people they encounter/meet. It is beautifully delivered, simple and concrete.

He taught: "The Jubilee of Mercy is an opportunity to enter in depth into the mystery of God's goodness and love". "In this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Church invites us to get to know better the Lord Jesus, and to live faith in a way coherent with a lifestyle that expresses the Father's mercy. My life, my attitude, my way of going about the world must be a concrete sign of the fact that God is close to us. Little gestures of love, of tenderness, of attention, that let us think that the Lord is with us, close to us. In this way we open the door of mercy".

For this, it is necessary to be committed, and this means assuming a responsibility, a task in relation to someone, and fulfilling it with fidelity, dedication and care. "Every day we are asked to commit ourselves to the things we do: in prayer, in work, in study, even in sport. ... In short, committing oneself means acting with good will and effort to improve life", explained the Pope.

"God too has committed Himself to us", he continued. "His first commitment was that of creating the world, and despite our attempts to spoil it, He is committed to keeping it alive. But His greatest commitment was that of giving Jesus to us. ... St. Paul recalls this when he writes that God 'did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all'. And, by virtue of this, together with Jesus the Father will give us everything we need".

In the Gospel it is very easy to see how God's commitment to us is made manifest. "In Jesus, God commits Himself fully in order to restore hope to the poor, to those who are deprived of their dignity, to outsiders, the sick, the imprisoned, and to sinners who welcome Him with good will. In all of this, Jesus was the living expression of the Father's mercy".

Francis highlighted the fact that Jesus' welcome to sinners: "if we think of it in a human way, the sinner would be an enemy of Jesus, an enemy of God, but He drew close to them with goodness, He loved them and He changed their heart. We are all sinners, all of us. We all have some blame before God. But we must not be distrustful: He draws close to us to offer us consolation, mercy and forgiveness. This is God's commitment, and this is why He sent Jesus to us, to be close to us, to all of us, and to open the door of His love, His heart and His mercy".

Taking as a starting point the merciful love with which Jesus expressed God's commitment, we too can and must match His love with our effort, especially in the situations of greatest need, when there is the greatest thirst for hope. I think of our efforts with abandoned people, with those who have very serious disabilities, with the gravely ill, with the dying, and with those who are no longer able to express their gratitude. ... We bring God's mercy to all these situations through commitment in life, which bears witness to our faith in Jesus. We must



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)*

### Cemetery Sunday-St. Colmcille's

This is a very important day in the Parish's annual calendar. It was an okay afternoon weather wise, yet the turnout was as great as always, even with the 'match' at 2.00pm. I want to take this opportunity to say a special 'thank you' to Paddy Gerrard. He is focused on this event before anyone else. Paddy, Dominic Temple and Noel Markey and the individuals who generously spend a few hours here and there, do a great job in maintaining and cleaning the Cemetery and Paddy also organises the collectors for the day of the blessing and I thank most sincerely the collectors for this. Thanks also to the Swords Lions Club and the Cloghran group who assist greatly in the cleaning in the run up to the day. I thank the Bethany Bereavement Support Group who assisted during the Mass as well as the Ministers of the Eucharist, the Liturgy Team and the Parish Pastoral Council. Finally I thank Fr. Pat who con-celebrated the Mass and who assisted in the blessing of the Cemetery



### Flowers

I thank sincerely JC's Supermarket for the beautiful flowers which adorn the altar. These supply these flowers for Cemetery Sunday every year

### Holy Water

There is a container with Holy Water on Chapel Lane at the gate where the 'Big Tree' was taken down. Feel free to use it for the blessing of your loved one's grave.

### Summer Schedule

This effects only the **Saturday 10.00am Morning Mass**. From yesterday Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June there will be no Saturday morning Mass for the summer months. It will resume on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. All other Masses will remain as scheduled.

To that end this Mass and the morning Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament ceased on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June and will resume on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. There are confession on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

### St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **next** weekend at all Masses

### Peter's Pence – this Sunday

This Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, is the Sunday nearest the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. To that end the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Share) is replaced by the 'Peter's Pence' collection. This collection is for the Pope and Pontifical Charities.

Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 10 Lipiec, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

### Year of Mercy – I desire mercy not sacrifice

The twentieth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – 'Misericordiae Vultus' continues - For his part, Jesus speaks several times of the importance of faith over and above the observance of the law. It is in this sense that we must understand his words when, reclining at table with Matthew and other tax collectors and sinners, he says to the Pharisees raising objections to him, "Go and learn the meaning of 'I desire mercy not sacrifice'. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mt 9:13). Faced with a vision of justice as the mere observance of the law that judges people simply by dividing them into two groups – the just and sinners – Jesus is bent on revealing the great gift of mercy that searches out sinners and offers them pardon and salvation. One can see why, on the basis of such a liberating vision of mercy as a source of new life, Jesus was rejected by the Pharisees and the other teachers of the law. In an attempt to remain faithful to the law, they merely placed burdens on the shoulders of others and undermined the Father's mercy. The appeal to a faithful observance of the law must not prevent attention from being given to matters that touch upon the dignity of the person.

The appeal Jesus makes to the text from the book of the prophet Hosea – "I desire love and not sacrifice" (6:6) – is important in this regard. Jesus affirms that, from that time onward, the rule of life for his disciples must place mercy at the centre, as Jesus himself demonstrated by sharing meals with sinners. Mercy, once again, is revealed as a fundamental aspect of Jesus' mission. This is truly challenging to his hearers, who would draw the line at a formal respect for the law. Jesus, on the other hand, goes beyond the law; the company he keeps with those the law considers sinners makes us realise the depth of his mercy.

### St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock

St Colmcille's Pilgrimage to Knock will take place on Saturday 13th August. Coach departs at 8.00am from The Star. Stopover for breakfast/snack en-route. Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel Strokestown. Cost - (coach only) €15. Please contact Mary 087 2711376 or Ita 8402268

### Pathways

Pathways is a two-year one night a week course for adults who wish to explore their faith. It runs from mid-September to May each year. There are no exams and no written work. The only requirement is an openness to listening to others and to participate. You can just come along and enjoy!. The cost is €400 for the coming academic year. Booking is now open. The programme begins this year in Clonliffe College on Thursday 22nd September 2016 - 7.00pm - 9.30pm. For further information please visit the webpage [www.evangelisation.ie](http://www.evangelisation.ie), phone 8379253 ext 294, email [pathways@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:pathways@dublindiocese.ie)

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Joan Begg**  
**John Taylor**  
**Frank McEvoy**

**Castlegrange Close**  
**Balheary Road**  
**St Colmcille's Crescent**



