

for taking change seriously. The Christian message must be integrated into the new culture that calls for new imagery and symbolism. Cultural change in Western world and internal confusion within the Church demands a new approach that is called for in the new evangelisation. The primary mission of the Church is to tell the world the truth about itself. The Good News is that God loves the world and invites all people to eternal happiness. Truth is therefore about the origin, dignity, vocation and destiny of human beings revealed to us by Jesus Christ that will set people free and give them hope. The next generation with little religious education will be searching for a message of hope while we, the older generation, will continue to live out the passions and debates of the 70s and 80s.

Conclusion: By way of conclusion, the following may be of help in responding to Francis' call: In Acts we notice that the apostles waited in prayer together with Mary for divine empowerment by the Spirit (1:14). Only then did they set out on mission. We too need to pray to be empowered by the Spirit, otherwise we are attempting to carry out a divine task with only human resources and will risk falling prey to pessimism and disillusionment. Peter's sermon on Pentecost day focuses on the kernel of the Good News – the person of Jesus, his ministry and the paschal events that call for a response from us as well (Acts 2:14-41). We need to look at our unexamined assumptions, our prejudices, and our hubris in thinking that we can reform the Church all by ourselves. We must get rid of a saviour complex that prevents us from being open to what God is asking of us at this time. Finally, we should re-read Francis' Joy of the Gospel. For the new evangelisation demands a personal deepening and renewal of our faith, confidence in it, and a willingness to share it.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

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| Mon 8.00am Special Intention | Sat 10.00am Nancy McDonnell |
| Mon 10.00pm Holy Souls | Mary Flynn 1st An |
| Tues 8.00am Noreen Behan | |
| Tues 10.00am Dec members of Donfield & Mongey Families | Sat 6.30pm Cathal & Mary O'Toole |
| Wed 8.00 Breda Kissane | |
| Wed 10.00 Ann Kelly | |
| Thurs 8.00am Birthday Remembrance | Sun 8.30am Maisie Flynn |
| Thurs 10.00am Gerald Ryan | Sun 11.00pm Michael Lambe & dec members of Lambe & Moriarty Families |
| Fri 8.00am Eamonn Weldon | Anthony Dunne (1st An) |
| Fri 10.00am Molly Hatch | Sun 6.30pm Fran(Frances) Hearty |

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
Today the Drynam choir will perform in RTE for the broadcast of Sunday Mass. Tea and Coffee after all Masses today.

Thirty –Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we approach the end of the Liturgical Year our celebrations contain many references to the end of time. Our attention is directed towards what has yet to be. The Letter to the Hebrews boldly states that Jesus the Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever. Whatever the future brings we can be confident that God who did not desert us in the past will remain faithful.

Reflection - Hope is a frame of mind which makes all the difference in the person who has it. Where there is no hope life becomes intolerable. Hope is therefore one of the best gifts that a person can receive. The hope of the Church is based on God's actions in the past. We have no reason to doubt that God will not continue as he began. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)

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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Church must proclaim a message of hope

“Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord”

Newsletter Sunday 6th November 2016

Continuing Fr. Maurice Hogan, the National director for World Missions Ireland (WMI), interesting essay from last week:

Evangelii Gaudium – *The Joy of the Gospel*

“The Pope is calling for a transition for a maintenance Church to a missionary one to meet the crisis of evangelisation and mission. Becoming a Catholic is a life-long process of living out the grace of baptism in missionary discipleship. It includes a radical turning around of one's life to friendship with Jesus in a life-long conversion to the truth of the Gospel; deep fidelity nurtured by word and sacrament; joyful discipleship as the expression of gratitude for salvation in Jesus Christ; and courageous evangelisation. We must also be conscious of the world in which the new evangelisation is being preached.

The Post-Modern World

A new aggressive secular culture began to gain ascendancy in the closing decades of the 20th century in the Western world that became increasingly hostile to the Church and saw Christianity as the enemy of freedom. We are now living in the post-modern age. Everything is now relative. There are no absolutes. What has become known as the “dictatorship of relativism” does not recognise anything as definitive. There is no such thing as objective good and evil. No such thing as objective truth, that is, being in accord with reality. There are only different opinions about why we exist, whether life has any purpose and how we are to live. I have my truth, you have yours; Christianity is for me, Buddhism is for you. You can't impose your religion or morality on me.

Many people today have become selective relativists. They believe, for example, that terrorism and global warming are evil, but in the areas of sexual ethics and religion, each person makes up his own answers to life's meaning. It is a matter of personal taste and there is freedom from all constraints, which accounts for its popularity. Relativism is propagated by the social media and none of us is immune from its influence. Many people, for example, are opposed to abortion but do nothing about it for fear of imposing their morality on others. Evil prevails when good people do nothing in the face of moral evil. Disagreement with the prevailing political correctness is regarded as bigotry and hate speech. Relativists think tolerance means not disagreeing with anybody on moral or religious issues. What we used to call difference of opinion is now labelled intolerance for claiming that some things are right or wrong. Times have changed, but the ideal of a missionary Church is still valid – the Church that Jesus and his disciples preached about.

The Church must proclaim a message of hope to a culture that has lost sight of it, one that lives in practical agnosticism, religious indifference, and increasingly without spiritual roots. It is one that celebrates a politics without God as human liberation and uses science, technology and development as a substitute for religion. In the face of a changed culture that is increasingly dominated by technology, the social media, globalisation and urbanisation, we must review our mind-sets, prejudices, stereotypes, and priorities, otherwise the Church risks becoming a museum. Reading signs of the times is a metaphor



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

November Mass for Deceased

On Wednesday last, 2nd November we celebrated our annual Remembrance Mass and it was a beautiful liturgy. I thank the Bethany Bereavement Team whose continued commitment and dedication to this ministry is a credit to themselves and the Parish. The beautiful Liturgy of Remembrance after the Gospel was accompanied by uplifting music and song. It gave all present space to remember their loved ones who died during the past year and perhaps provided some comfort. The evening was a huge undertaking with weeks of preparation. Thanks to everyone involved, for the clean Church, beautiful flowers, the décor, the board of names in front of the altar, and invitations. Not forgetting the Ministry Teams - Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, Liturgical Servers, the Liturgy Team, the Parish Choir and Parish Secretary. Thanks also to the hospitality Team for the light refreshments after the Mass



Confirmation Classes

The Parish based Confirmation Programme begins next week-end. Too often Confirmation is seen as a ‘rite of passage’ from the church. The Catholic Christian faith offers a powerful support to young people as they struggle with the great pressures of modern life. But they need every encouragement to hold on to and cherish their faith. The school and the Parish are making special efforts to prepare for and to celebrate our young people’s Confirmation. In order to begin to understand the Sacrament of Confirmation they and indeed ourselves must first understand what it means to belong to a Community of Faith, and that takes time. That in part is what this Parish initiative is about. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. To that end next week-end the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday Evening Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I know you will make them welcome and we look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Mass Intentions The Diary for 2017 opens THIS weekend

We have enough Masses this coming year to hold onto the principal of ONLY ONE INTENTION ALLOWED PER MASS, whether that is a weekday or a weekend. This I believe is a good practice, which I hope parishioners will accept, so long as the Parish celebrates the number of Masses that it does. There is one exception.

The Only Exception

A month’s Mind Mass or a 1st Anniversary Mass can ‘double up’ with an already existing intention (*not the other way around*) Under Canon law, a priest can only accept one offering per Mass – so, if more than one offering is received, the other will go to Parish finances. Mass intentions are important to families and the Sacristan will do his/her best to facilitate your wish **but if the desired date and time is already booked please respect that situation and accept an alternate date.**

If the particular date is very important, the name may be mentioned. This is on the understanding that the particular Mass is not offered for that intention. Another date can be booked for a Mass intention – if the family cannot be there, the Mass is still offered for the intention

Suggested MASS OFFERING IS €15. THE DIARY FOR 2017 WILL OPEN ON SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Closing of the Year of Mercy-Holy door

pilgrimages

On **Saturday November 12th** we are going to walk through the Holy Door of the Pro-Cathedral. The plan is very simple. We gather at **Gardiner Street Church at 1.00pm** and after a short prayer there we walk to Sean McDermott St Church, again a prayer and finally to the Pro-Cathedral. Whilst at the Pro-Cathedral we can review the 1916 exhibition.

All three churches have ‘holy doors’ and at each church we will say a prayer as we ‘walk’ through the Holy Door. As well as that at Gardiner St. we can pray at the shrine of Fr John Sullivan whose cause for canonisation is in process in Rome. His tomb draws a daily stream of devotees, as does the monthly Mass in his memory. Fr John worked for a short time in the church in 1907. At Sean McDermott St Church, we can pray at the shrine of Venerable Matt Talbot.

It is very simple and as a short pilgrimage it should be rewarding with I hope many graces and blessing to be received. All are welcome. Just make your way to **Gardiner St for 1.00pm on Saturday 12th November**



Altar List of the Dead

If you have not completed one, there are some available at the back of the Church. They were not delivered to every house in the Parish, so if you have a housebound neighbour who you believe would like to complete one please drop in an envelope and arrange for collection and delivery to the Sacristy. These lists are now available at the back of the Church. The new lists are now in front of the altar. All Masses on the First Friday of the month will be offered for the names on the Altar List of the Dead

Swords Senior Citizens Centre, Chapel Lane.

The Annual Ecumenical Memorial service to remember and pray for our deceased members relatives and friends will take place on Thursday 10th November at 2.30pm

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Wed 16th November from 7:30pm-9:00pm in B.A.S.E, Brackenstown Road. 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.

POLISH MASS: Holy Mass in Polish Language, will be celebrated on Sunday 13th Listopad at 6.45pm in St. Cronan’s Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 6.15pm & Msza 6.45pm)

November:

We remember our own dead and our own sadness this November. Tears speak out our grief, but they also witness to our love and we are glad to have loved so much that we can cry. May those we have loved rest in your embrace, O Lord