

What separates us from God is not God's sense of justice but our sense of justice. Jesus is our scapegoat and bears our sin, not to appease God, but to appease our understanding so we might no longer fear God's presence.

God's desire has always been that we would enter into relationship with God, but our all-too-human concepts and our idea of who God is, have kept us from that relationship. We imagine that God is like us and can only love that which is beautiful and good, **but God is not like us.** This is made clear in a parable like the 'Prodigal Son' or an encounter with Jesus like last Sunday's gospel with the 'woman at the well'. God can love the unlovely. God even loves God's enemies.

Unlike human beings who are for the most part incapable of forgiveness and demand payment for the offence by the guilty, God is capable of forgiveness through which God makes payment in order to restore relationship with us.

Since this is unfathomable to most of us, God gave the scapegoat as a means for humans to approach the Godhead. It is the entering into a relationship with God that is important and not a correct theology about how that happens. If we are not capable of a correct understanding, God in God's mercy gives us an understanding we can grasp. (Source: *The Glenstal Book of Readings – James Danahar*)

**Fr. Michael Carey Adm**

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

**Mon** 8.00 am Annie Wynne

**Sat 6.30pm** Albert Bissett

**Mon** 10.00am Joseph Coleman

**Tues** 8.00 Mick Dunphy

**Sun 8.30am** Patrick Webb

**Tues** 10.00am Marian Nulty

**Sun 10.00am** John Collins

**Wed** 8.00am Fr Declan Doyle

**Sun 11.30am** Dec members of the Melia Family

**Wed** 10.00am Bridie Keenan

Kathleen Taylor MM

**Thurs** 8.00am Terry Moles

**Sun 7.30** Nuala Collier

**Thurs** 10.00am Honour of Jesus suffering  
in the Garden of Gethsemane

**Fri** 8.00am Buddy Teeling

**Fri** 10.00am Molly Hatch

**Sat** 10.00am Ellen Farrell

### **Church of the Visitation Drynam**

### ***The Visitation of the BVM***

**Mass Times for Drynam: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri: 9.20am. Sun, 10.00am 11.00am**

**(Irish) & 12 noon**

Today we welcome children from Holywell Educate Together National School for a Do This in Memory Mass at 12:00, further preparation for First Holy Communion on 11th May.

Our Lenten Garden is beginning to show life as we apply water and light today.

### **Seeds of consolation**

What can I say to you, my friend,  
in your hour of grief?

Just a word from my heart.

In the midst of your sorrow seeds are being sown –  
seeds of consolation, hope, resignation, and even gratitude.

This winter will pass,  
and spring will again visit the garden of your heart.

You will see these seeds grow, blossom, and bear fruit.

Then your sorrow will turn to joy,

a joy no one will be able to take from you. (Source: *Flor McCarty*)



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277

(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

Website: [www.swords-parish.com](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net)



5th Sunday of Lent

### **The Idea of a Scapegoat**

*“Give me justice, O God, ... From the deceitful and cunning, rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength”*



**Newsletter Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

The dictionary definition of a scapegoat is: A person made to bear the blame for others. It is a word that we are familiar with, and it has its origins in the Bible.

The ancient Hebrews needed some way to feel that they were worthy to come into the presence of a holy God. Their all-too-human idea was that the greatness of God prevented God from loving or even tolerating anything that was not perfect. Such a notion kept them at a distance from God. If they were to approach God, they would have to feel that they were somehow good in God's sight. But they knew of their own imperfection. Thus, a scapegoat, upon whom they could put all of their sin and guilt, was necessary in order for them to come into God's presence, but it was not necessary for God.

This is made clear in the Book of Leviticus: “The LORD said to Moses:..... He shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting; and Aaron shall cast lots on the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD, and offer it as a sin offering; but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel..... When he has finished atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. Then Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and sending it away into the wilderness by means of someone designated for the task. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a barren region; and the goat shall be set free in the wilderness.” (Lv. 16:2-22)

For many of us, Jesus is the scapegoat who allows us to approach a God who we think is otherwise unapproachable.

Certainly no one comes to God, except through the atoning work of Jesus, but if we need, because of our understanding, to believe that Jesus is our scapegoat who allows us to enter into a relationship with God, the scripture miraculously allows for such an understanding. Equally it allows us to see atonement as a matter of ransom for forgiveness if that is what our understanding requires. For many, the idea of a scapegoat provides a means that allow human beings to cross over and enter into a relationship with God. It is not, however, a means which God requires in order to cross over and enter a relationship with human beings.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon - "Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die forever, says the Lord."*



### 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

### Lenten Dessert

In both St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam, there are beautiful Lenten Desserts, each highlighting a different approach to the journey through Lent. I want to acknowledge and thank the artistic endeavour's of the individuals who created and maintain these lovely works of liturgical art and decor.

### Easter Triduum

We are rapidly approaching the Triduum – the highlight of the year. The liturgies involve a lot of participation by the different Ministry Groups. If you are around the weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup>, please volunteer or accept the invitation to participate. Holy Thursday involves the washing of feet. Very few like 'to do' this but it is a powerful statement – why not offer? You can give your name to myself; Fr. Peter (Drynam); Colette or Stephanie. It would make for a nice gift to the Lord at Easter!!

### Holiday

There are still a number of places available for our Parish Holiday. As I said it's a lovely and safe way of travelling for anyone who hasn't holidayed anywhere in a while and we are going to a lovely part of Italy. The hotel has a swimming pool and a private beach. See box in newsletter.

### Easter Cards

The Easter cards are being distributed – if people can help with the few that are remaining it would be greatly appreciated. There is one change from last year to note in St. Colmcille's. On Holy Thursday there is only one Mass of the Lord's Supper which is at 7.30pm

### 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:** Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwell in you (1. Cor.3:16)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lent is a Penitential Season and therefore the Sacrament of Penance is very much part of it. A reminder of Confession times will not go amiss.

As well as our own confessional times the Archbishop has arranged for 10 city centre churches to host confessions on Saturdays 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> April from 9.30am - 6pm - see poster for names of the churches involved

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

John's Gospel puts before the believer a grand array of I Am sentences, rooted in the name of God in Exodus 3:14, I am who I am. I am the bread of life (Jn 6:35, 48, 51); I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12; 9:5); I am the gate for the sheep (Jn 10:7, 9); I am the good shepherd (Jn 10:11, 14); I am the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25); I am the way, and the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6); I am the true vine (Jn 15:1, 5). Altogether, they constitute a resounding reminder that we believe first of all in a person, not in a philosophy.

**Prayer** - Jesus, present to us always, you wept at the tomb of your friend Lazarus. As we face the mystery of death, our own and that of those we love, help us build our faith on your resurrection from the dead.

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Mary and Martha's long relationship with Jesus had brought them to believe in him. It must be comforting for us to know that their belief was still less than perfect. So is ours. And, like Mary and Martha, our belief is strengthened by encounters with Jesus. Jesus' presence means new life. One obvious way we encounter Jesus is at Mass when we expressly take time out of our busy schedules to be present. Other prayer times during the day and week are also times when we consciously strive to encounter Jesus. Perhaps less evident as encounters with Jesus would be all those times when we meet him through faith-strengthening and hope giving encounters with other people. When our discouragement is lessened by a kind remark or when our sinfulness is forgiven by a smile and welcome, we encounter Jesus in the other and are brought to new life. Jesus loves each one of us deeply as he loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus and he gives each of us new life too.

### **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.*

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

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