

Swords - St. Colmcille's / Dynam - Our Lady of the Visitation

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

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

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Swords

**CHRISTMAS SEASON****Feast of the Epiphany***"We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord"***Newsletter Sunday 5th January 2014**

The story of the Magi, the wise men, represent all of our stories insofar as their journey through desert and mountain following a star reflects our search for purpose and meaning in life – a search which is not complete unless we are guided by faith which enables us to see beneath the surface of appearances - a faith which gives us the strength in tough times but hopefully that deep down joy as we journey through life.

At the centre of this journey is the innocence of a new born child, surrounded by adoration, wonder and mystery, who is able to stir the emotions, imaginations and wills of all those drawn into his presence.

There are many routes to God, but only one light. The Magi and the shepherds found their way to the stable by quite different paths but by following the same star

The Epiphany is always relevant because God sees to it that people who really search WILL find him. He will shed light into our darkness and make us new. As the Lord himself said, "ask and you will be given, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you".

As the Christmas season draws to a close the Epiphany remind us of our journeying into another year following our individual paths, but reminding us that we need not necessarily travel alone, fumbling in the darkness in search of our destination.

The Epiphany story calls on us to look around and search for the Lord who is in our midst, in situations where previously we were unaware of his presence. He comes in people and places we least expect and at times when we are most unprepared for his company.

God stands in our midst revealing himself and inviting us to enter his company. Nothing is ever the same again for those who have discovered his light.

The Magi came bearing gifts-strange gifts. I came across a thoughtful reflection on these gifts in a book called 'Hallowing the Time' by Fr. Geoffrey Preston. He suggests that "the gifts represent all the questions posed by a non-believing world: gold, the currency of politics, economics and commerce, frankincense, the material of worship, signifies man's questions about the divine; and myrrh, the ointment of death, 'the supreme question mark set against all the activities of man'. Thus man's searching is laid at the manger, wherein lies the answer, the 'way, the truth and the life'".

We can be sure that the wise men were utterly changed after meeting the child Jesus and they brought that change with them as they went home back to their own place. In seeing Jesus they saw the divine light which no doubt guided the rest of their lives and today we ask and pray for that divine light to guide and influence our own lives as we begin this year of Our Lord 2014.

Fr. Michael**Carey Adm****Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:****Mon** 8.00 am Special Intention**Mon** 10.00am Dec Mem Keany Family**Tues** 8.00 am Paddy Bergin**Sat** 6.30pm Annie, Eileen & Patrick O'Rourke**Sun** 8.00am Rita Madigan**Sun** 10.00am Mary McQuillan

Tues 10.00 am Sean Melia
Wed 8.00am Mel Donlon
Wed 10.00am Thomas Mongey
Thurs 8.00am Jim Mintern
Thurs 10.00am Luigi Rea
Fri 8.00am Helen Ryan
Fri 10.00am Phyllis O'Connor
Sat 10.00am Gus Rafferty

Sun 11.30am Frances Grace
Sun 7.30pm Jack & Brigid McNulty



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Des Becton
Margaret Byrne
Josie McGuirk

Castlefarm
Foxwood
Cloghran



Remembrance

As we begin our New Year, we remember all our friends and loved ones who have died in the past year.

All sharing in common that they died into the arms of our loving God.

We pray especially for those who are grieving and are without consolation at this time.

May the gentle light of Jesus shine on them
and may they know the love and compassion of our Lord in their hearts. **Amen**

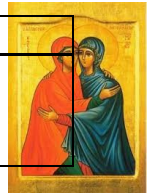
Planned Giving

New Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Parish Office, Parochial House Seatown Road

The Visitation of the BVM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

Today is Hospitality Sunday, teas and coffee after Mass. Please come along for a cuppa and a chat.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

EPIPHANY Antiphon - "Arise Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun"

Happy New Year

On behalf of myself, Fr. Peter; Fr. Pat; Fr. John, the Parish Sisters; the Parish Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam a peaceful and happy New Year

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church



Christmas in Swords/Drynam

The Christmas Ceremonies went very well. I want to thank all involved and all who helped make Christmas a beautiful, uplifting and spiritual occasion

Prayer for every evening of the Year

Now, master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel. (Lk.2:29-32)

A New Year's Blessing

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year,
we thank you for your gift of time.
Let us embrace time as Mary did,
as the experience of the unfolding of your plan of salvation.
We measure time with calendars and watches.
You experience it as an ever-present "now."
Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months,
of holydays and holidays, of feast and fasts,
and all our special days of remembering.
Please bless these instruments with which we measure time.
Let them remind us that you are the master of time
as we dedicate this New Year to you.
Lord, bless this New Year, each of its days and nights.
Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives.
Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2014
Grant that it will be a year of love and peace. **Amen.**



SPLENDOURS OF VENETO based in Sottomarina

Swords/Drynam Parish Holiday *Tuesday 3rd – Tuesday 10th 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: €795.00 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 (€150 deposit per person). Balance of €100 by the end of January and remainder 10 weeks before departure. For more details telephone Colette: 8407277.

Church

Brochures at back of

A star is born

The Magi were led to Christ by the light of a star.
But they saw the star only because
they were not afraid to travel in the dark.
The fact is, we cannot see the stars
in the bright light of day,
but only in the darkness of night;
and the darker the night
the brighter they shine



In a sense, all of us are night-time travelers.
However, we need no longer fear the darkness,
because with the coming of Christ
a light has come into the world,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that no darkness can overpower. (Source: Flor McCarthy)

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

The Season of Christmas ends with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (12th Jan). As the season draws to an end, the solemnity of the Epiphany offers an opportunity to proclaim the centrality of Christ's paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life.

Know, dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten Season.

On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the first day of June will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.

On the twenty-second day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

To whom be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen (Source: Liturgical Ordo)