

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*



November Mass for Deceased

On Thursday last, 9th 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 under the new director, Morgan Crowley for the first time, and Parish Secretary. Thanks also to the hospitality Team for the light refreshments after the Mass

Do This in Memory

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil 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.

Confirmation Classes

I want to thank the parents and their children for attending the special preparation Mass last Saturday. It was a wonderful turnout and the boys/girls proclaimed God's word, read the Prayer of the Faithful and presented the gifts of bread and wine. I thank the teachers (Ms. Reynolds; Ms. O'Brien; Ms. Lineen and Mr. Connell) for preparing their pupils for this Mass.

Christmas Draw 2017

Tickets will be on sale this weekend in the church! St. Colmeille's is having its 2nd Christmas draw this year and as usual the Pariah Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 3rd December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

1st Prize €1000

2nd Prize €300

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €2 each and a book of 3 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 18/19th November, 25th/26th November & 2nd/3rd December. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office on Seatown Road.

To summarise:

- **Draw on 3rd December**
- **The cost of a ticket is €2 or 3 for €5**
- **Good Prizes**
- **Please Help**

If you have been contacted to sell tickets, you can pick them up in the Sacristy and thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to sell tickets.



Diary - some changes in 2018

In preparing the diary for 2018, I have in consultation with the PPC and the Liturgy Team, introduced a change regarding Saturday mornings.

1st Saturday of the Month – on this day there will be Mass at 10.00am followed by confessions and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Other Saturdays of the Month – there will be no Mass or Confessions. Instead at 10.00am the Parish will pray the Church's Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the hours. I wrote a series of newsletters about why this very minor change is necessary and what it is preparing for. It is based on a document approved by the Irish Bishop's Conference at their meeting of September 2015 called 'IT IS GOOD FOR US TO BE HERE – gathered on a weekday when the Eucharist is not celebrated'.

I am introducing this so that as a parish we can gather as the local faith community to pray and give worship to God when **the priest is absent**. Within the next few years, it is the weekday that is fragile in terms of daily Mass. If and when a priest is absent it does not mean that the parish community cannot give prayer and worship to God and the Church has other forms of worship apart from the Mass especially its Divine Office – Morning (Lauds) and Evening (Vespers) Prayer.

The **month of July** is the holiday month for myself and Fr. Pat and with that in mind the 6.30pm Saturday evening vigil Mass is cancelled for this month.

Mission Sunday Appeal

Thank you very much for your wonderful contribution to the Mission Sunday appeal held on Sunday October 21st last. The amount collected for Swords/Drynam was €1965 (2016 €1437). World Missions Ireland thank you for your great generosity in difficult times.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT THE 8TH ?

Fingal for Life are holding a Meeting and Workshop on how to explain the true facts in the Pro Life message and on how best to deliver that message to your family and friends. The Speakers and Facilitators for the night are Paddy Manning and Michael Dwyer from Family & Life. They are well known PR and Media consultants. This meeting will be held in Portmarnock Parish Centre, Tuesday 21st November, 8.00pm. This will be a very helpful meeting. You are all encouraged to attend.

Rosary on the Coast.

Sunday 26th November is the feast of 'Christ the King' and pm this day around the country on all our coasts The Rosary will be prayed for the protection of family and life in our country. **For the people of Swords our designated coast is the 'Estuary' at 2.30pm. We assemble near the sailing club at 2.15pm.** Please join us for this wonderful occasion and let us give our families and country back to the rightful owner 'Christ the King'.

Thank you, *Mary, Fingal for Life*