

For Pope Francis a Church which closes in on itself ceases to be the Church of Jesus Christ. Evangelisation and renewal in the Church require that we become missionary disciples of Jesus capable of bringing the message of Jesus to the men and women of today not as an abstract message, nor as a code of moral do's or don'ts but through a living personal witness to the joy of knowing Jesus,

It is through the quality of our witness that we reach out to those who do not know Jesus, but also to those whose knowledge of Jesus has not brought them the joy that they seek. This is reaching out to those on the margins of society and especially those who were wounded or hurt within the family of the Church.

Pope Francis challenges the entire Church to become witnesses to Jesus the good shepherd. Evangelising, the Pope says, involves closeness to those we evangelise, smelling of the sheep that we encounter. It involves bringing them to a deeper knowledge of Jesus, not imposing our own views but through being able to journey with them and being alongside them – sharing with them the difficulties of life in today's world.

Modern communications can be of great value in spreading the Gospel, but distance communication can never replace the nearness to suffering and alienation which the message of Jesus requires. When we speak of a preferential option for the poor, we are not talking about a political programme. We are talking about an attribute of God's activity. Without real contact with the realities of the poor and the excluded we will never enter fully into the logic of the God revealed in Jesus Christ... **to be continued next week**

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

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

Mon 8.00am Aisling Markey	Sat 6.30 pm Patricia Hennelly (MM) Thomas Gavillet (MM)
Mon 10.00am Michael Fitzpatrick	Sun 8.30am Concepcion Diaz
Tues 8.00am Alice Webb	Sun 11.30am Anthony & Kathleen Gargan
Tues 10.00am Special Intention	
Wed 8.00am Oisín Emmauel	Sun 7.30 pm Paddy Hughes
Wed 10.00am Isobel Grogan	
Thurs 8.00 am Special Intention	
Thurs 10.00am Mass in Thanksgiving	
Fri 8.00 Altar list of the Dead	
Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead	
Sat 10.00 am Thomas Salmon	

Church of the Visitation Drynam

The Visitation of the BVM

Drynam Mass Times for July and August: Mon, Tue, Wed each week: 9.20 am
Sun: 10.00 am and 12.00 am
Regular 9.20 am Mass on Fridays and 11.00am Irish Mass on Sundays will resume in September.



B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. A team, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced share their experiences with you.

Next Coping Programme will commence on Wednesday 3rd September for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com.

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 Email: stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Living the Joy of the Gospel (Part 2)

“O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call you”

Newsletter Sunday 31st August 2014



Speaking about Pope Francis and his Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin addressed a Catholic Leadership Forum of priests, school principals and archdiocesan agency leaders gathered at the Catholic Leadership Centre, Melbourne on 14 July 2014... continued from last week

There are some who will feel that we are again moving away from the certainties of Gospel. There are those who would say that the mark of true Catholicism is that of truth and certainty. But one has to be careful to understand what the certainty of the Gospel means.

Faith is always a risk and a leap into the unknown. The certainty we feel so strongly about may well be a certainty of our own making. It may well represent a comfort zone which covers our fears of taking that leap of faith which will bring us closer to Jesus. Certainties can deceive. Seeking can be a healthy sign of respect for a truth we still have to enter into profoundly.

At this point I think it is good to remember that Pope Francis speaks not just of the joy of the Gospel but of the joy of spreading the Gospel, the joy of evangelising. He quotes the Aparecida document of the Latin American bishops of 2007 of which he was one of the principal authors by saying: “those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited about communicating the Gospel to others”.

The joy of the Gospel is never just a sort of personal sense of satisfaction within myself. Quite to the contrary, the joy of the Gospel will always leave me uncomfortable if I do not set out to share that joy with others. The Gospel by its nature builds community and a Gospel community is always one which is truly evangelical in the best sense of that word. This is why Pope Francis tends to refer to Christians as missionary disciples. The message of Pope Francis from the beginning of his pontificate and indeed the message which he delivered to the Cardinals at the final General Congregation just before the Conclave has consistently been about a Church which reaches outwards, the opposite to what he calls a self-referential Church.

Just days before he was elected, Pope Francis made a remarkable one page handwritten speech to the gathered cardinals. In the final short paragraph he spoke about what he expected from the new Pope: “Thinking of the new Pope” he said, “he must be a man who from the contemplation and adoration of Jesus Christ helps the Church to go out to the peripheries, and helps her to be the fruitful mother, who gains life from the sweet and comforting joy of evangelising. These last words are taken from Pope Paul VI’s exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi which Cardinal Bergoglio regarded as one of the most significant Church documents since Vatican II.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you."



Schools are back!

The summer has ended and the schools are back. I hope all readers of the newsletter are well rested. Sacramentally it is a particularly important year for the 2nd and 6th classes and I hope that the journey and preparations for the Sacrament of 1st Penance, Holy Communion and Confirmation are exciting and rewarding for the pupils, their parents and wider family circle and the class teachers. It is also an important, challenging and probably nervous year for the Junior and Leaving Cert years – I wish them well and assure them of the prayers of the whole Parish Community. We might even get an 'Indian Summer' which will delight all of us.

Choir

In the newsletter this week is a very important notice from Anne McDonagh which appeared last at the beginning of Summer. She is looking for new choir members – 1st and foremost new members for the choir would come from the regulars to this 11.30am Mass. As Anne states if no new members come forward the choir may come to an end. Please give it thoughtful and prayerful consideration. The choir recommences next Sunday, 7th September.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Authentic discipleship doesn't require us to hunt for suffering. Being faithful to Jesus will bring enough as it is. This is so because living and witnessing to gospel values challenges so many values that society touts as ones that will bring us happiness. Ultimately, though, we find that only living gospel values brings us lasting happiness, even though we must die to self in the process. All who wish to be faithful to Jesus' call to gospel living must be prepared to suffer – and also prepared to receive new life. The life Jesus offers is worth any price! *(Source: Living Liturgy)*

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE The existence of God is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived.... Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973, French existentialist philosopher)

Church Choir

The Church Choir is asking for your help. They need new members from September next. Membership of the choir is not very onerous; it involves singing at Mass at 11.30am on Sundays and singing at the Christmas and Easter celebrations. Practice is normally held for half an hour before Mass. You don't have to have a great voice to join the choir. As long as you can hold a tune you would be very welcome. *Remember that to sing is to pray twice.* The current members are coming to retirement stage so **the choir will come to an end** if we do not have new members. So please give it some thought and if you can come along at 11.00 to talk to myself on Sunday 7th September to give it a try until Christmas for the Carol Service.

Anne McDonagh – Choir Director



The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Thursday 4th September at 7.30pm in the Parochial house, Seatown Road

St. Colmcille's GRAVEYARD – Hidden History

To mark National Heritage Week, Swords Historical Society invite you to walk around St. Colmcille's graveyard with them. The theme is "Hear the stories of those there – an insight into the Swords of other days". The walk will take today - **Sunday 31st August at 3.30pm.** (If it is raining, gather in the Church)

Standing Orders

Over the next week I will write to those who have not replied to the 'changeover request'. If our letters cross in the post or you have replied directly to your bank, then please accept my apologies. Again thank you to all who have already replied. Can I prevail upon the outstanding recipients to return as soon as possible? Thank You

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus had the gift of saying things directly and plainly, with a power to penetrate all our defences and lead us to a new awareness. Today's message puts before us the paradox of the Gospel: we gain life by letting go of it. If I put my happiness, my being loved, at the centre of my life, then I will surely fail, even though to be loved and to be happy are really important. If on the other hand, I put the happiness of others first and love them unconditionally, then I too will know unselfish love and deep happiness. This is the very insight and wisdom that Jesus puts before us as the key not just to love but to life and within that, the key to authentic discipleship precisely as a way of life.

Prayer - Teach us, Lord, that nothing is more life-giving than to love and be loved in return. Live in us, Jesus, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that we may love you with our whole mind, strength, and heart.

Feast this Week St. Gregory the Great– Wednesday 3rd September. 540-604. Roman noble who was Prefect of the City before becoming a monk. As Pope he established a pattern for the papacy in years to come, calling himself 'servant of the servants of Christ'. He sent missions to Lombardy, Sardinia and England(He sent St. Augustine of Canterbury). He is called 'Apostle of the English'. Patron of musicians _

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Anne Hogan
Thomas Fagan

Jugback Place
Streamstown, Feltrim



The Parish Pastoral Collection. This outdoor collection takes place after all Masses this Sunday. Please support, as all funds go to the Parish.