

everyday lives, putting into practice the spiritual fruits of our experience. In the Year of Mercy, every Christian family can become a privileged place on this pilgrimage for experiencing the joy of forgiveness. Forgiveness is the essence of the love which can understand mistakes and mend them. How miserable we would be if God did not forgive us! Within the family we learn how to forgive, because we are certain that we are understood and supported, whatever the mistakes we make. Let us not lose confidence in the family! It is beautiful when we can always open our hearts to one another, and hide nothing. Where there is love, there is also understanding and forgiveness. To all of you, dear families, I entrust this most important mission, the domestic pilgrimage of daily family life, which the world and the Church need, now more than ever.”

*Fr. Michael Carey*

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Evelyn Farrissey	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am In Thanksgiving	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Dec members of Mullen Family
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Mrs Touhy	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Special intention	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Elizabeth Flynn
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Eamon McGrane	Peter O’Gorman
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Mary Flynn	
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Special Intention	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Kathleen Doyle
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Ann Murphy	<b>Sun</b> 11.00 am Declan Hanratty
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Mary McQuillan	Agnes Maxwell (MM)
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Kate & Pat Kinsella	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm Eva Kearns
Hugh & Molly Field	Bridget Whelan (MM)

**Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM**

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish) & 12 noon (No weekday Mass)**

Fr. Peter and the team would like to thank all who helped over the Christmas period including delivering cards; preparing the church, flowers, swags, stars, Christmas tree, beautiful crib etc; Ministers of the Word and Eucharist and beautiful music from the choir at Masses; and a special thank you to the Capuchin priests and all the faithful who continue to support us.



**Sharing in the Lord’s Ministry**

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes so that we may see the signs of your presence in our lives and in the world. Touch our ears so that we may hear the word. Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith. Touch our hands so that we may give and receive. Touch our feet so that we may walk in your paths. Touch our minds so that we may understand your ways. Touch our wills so that we may be in tune with your will. Touch our hearts so that we may bring your love to our sisters and brothers, to the praise and glory of God. Amen. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

**Lectio Divina**

Lectio Divina meeting resumes on Tuesday January 12th at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road. If you are interested in developing scripture in your life you are welcome to come along any Tuesday evening.

**Anam Cara** is holding its monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 20th January from 19:30 to 21:00 in Applewoods Community Centre, Castleview Lawn/ Bunbury Gate Road, Swords. Anam Cara Services are available free of charge to all bereaved parents.

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948**  
**Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes - Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277**  
*(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)*  
**Sacristy: -8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-9.55am and 10.30am to 10.50am)**  
**Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**



**The Baptism of the Lord  
 Making the Sign of the Cross**

*“After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened”*

**Newsletter Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

This is my first newsletter for 2016. Whilst last Sunday was Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, I wrote the newsletter before the Christmas break. The Pope delivered some lovely sermons over Christmas especially in my opinion a homily on the Holy Family and it contains a lovely and simple ideas on ‘blessings’. As we are all part of a family and especially the Family of the Father as this Feast Day implies, I thought that this newsletter might be appropriate

The biblical readings on the Feast of the Holy Family “presented us with the image of two families on pilgrimage to the house of God. Elkanah and Hannah bring their son Samuel to the Temple of Shiloh and consecrate him to the Lord. In the same way, Joseph and Mary, in the company of Jesus, go as pilgrims to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover.

We often see pilgrims journeying to shrines and places dear to popular piety. These days, many of them are making their way to the Holy Door opened in all the cathedrals of the world and in many shrines. But the most beautiful thing which emerges from the word of God today is that the **whole family goes on pilgrimage**. Fathers, mothers and children together go to the house of the Lord, in order to sanctify the holy day with prayer. It is an important teaching, which is meant for our own families as well. Indeed, we could say that family life is a series of pilgrimages, both small and big.

For example, how comforting it is for us to reflect on Mary and Joseph teaching Jesus how to pray! This is a sort of pilgrimage, the pilgrimage of education in prayer. And it is comforting also to know that throughout the day they would pray together, and then go each Sabbath to the synagogue to listen to readings from the Law and the Prophets, and to praise the Lord with the assembly. Certainly, during their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they prayed by singing the Psalm: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

How important it is for our families to journey together towards a single goal! We know that we have a road to travel together; a road along which we encounter difficulties but also enjoy moments of joy and consolation. And on this pilgrimage of life we also share in moments of prayer. What can be more beautiful than for a father and mother to bless their children at the beginning and end of each day, **to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross**, as they did on the day of their baptism? Is this not the simplest prayer which parents can offer for their children? To bless them, that is, to entrust them to the Lord, just like Elkanah and Anna, Joseph and Mary, so that he can be their protection and support throughout the day. In the same way, it is important for families to join in a brief prayer before meals, in order to thank the Lord for these gifts and to learn how to share what we have received with those in greater need. These are all little gestures, yet they point to the great formative role played by the family in the pilgrimage of everyday life.

At the end of that pilgrimage, Jesus returned to Nazareth and was obedient to his parents. This image also contains a beautiful teaching about our families. A pilgrimage does not end when we arrive at our destination, but when we return home and resume our



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – "I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God "

### Flowers

The flower arrangements over the Christmas Season were fantastic and involved hours of work. I sincerely thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney



### 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. Thank you to all who have returned their dues envelopes

### Parish Holiday

I really need to know by the end of the month, if parishioners are interested in this holiday so determine if it is a runner!

### Countdown

There are 350 shopping days 'till Christmas!

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today's feast marks the dividing line between the hidden and the public life of Jesus. No sooner does Christmastide end than we move directly into the last three years of Jesus' life. The liturgy, like the scriptures, pass quickly over the thirty or so years in between.

**Reflection** The dynamic and marvellous aspect of baptism is largely toned down by our celebration of baptism by pouring a little water over the person's head. Only in baptism by immersion as in today's scripture is the symbolism really effective. Baptism is closely associated with new life. The water which completely covers the person symbolises the womb and coming up out of the water, the bursting forth into a new form of life, full of possibility and choice.. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

## Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm in the Parochial House

## Swords Grouping

The PPC's of Swords(Drynam), River Valley and Brackenstown will meet on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Brackenstown Parish Centre.

## Viatores Christi - Overseas Development & Mission

Do you want to learn more about the possibility of overseas volunteering and/or training in Overseas Development & Mission? Viatores Christi (VC) will hold an Information & Recruitment Session on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 12.00 at VC HQ, 8 New Cabra Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7 Tel. 01-8689986 info@viatoreschristi.com

## Parish Holiday to Vienna & Salzburg

Monday 27 June – Saturday 2 July 2016

Home of magnificent buildings, elegant palaces, fine art, classical music, waltzes, coffee shops and beautiful gardens ..... this is **Vienna** where you will be spending 3 nights before heading to the lovely Baroque romantic city of **Salzburg**, for the remainder of your holiday.

**Highlights include** Guided half day walking tour of Vienna \*Visiting the Melk Abbey\*Half day walking tour of Salzburg\*Half day Sound of Music coach tour **Cost: €895.00 per person sharing**

**This price includes:** Return direct flight Dublin/Vienna, Munich/Dublin with Aer Lingus\* 5 nights accommodation sharing twin room in 3star hotel\* Meals: bed and breakfast + 2 dinners\* **Extras:** Baggage fee (currently €50.00 – 15 kg) \* Insurance: €28.00 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies) \* Single room supplement: €35.00 per person per night Bookings and Information: Contact **Parish Office. Tel: (01) 8407277**

## Symbols of Baptism

### Water - which symbolises new life.

Water is a symbol of cleansing and in Baptism we are cleansed of sin but water is more especially a symbol of life. Through Baptism we were reborn into a new life in Christ and became adopted children of the Father through the Holy Spirit.



### Oil - The first anointing is with the Oil of Catechumens.

At Baptism we were anointed not once but twice with oil. The first anointing is with the oil of Catechumens. Just as athletes rub oil into their limbs to give them the strength to compete, so too were we anointed on the chest with this oil to protect us from harm and strengthen us to grow and live as Christians.

### Oil of Chrism

Immediately after Baptism with water we were anointed on the head with the Oil of Chrism. This is a sign of a special calling through the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was anointed at His Baptism and given a special calling to bring about the Kingdom of God. Every Christian shares this calling - to build a kingdom of love justice and peace in our world.

### The Christening Robe

After Baptism the first Christians wore white clothes for a week to show that they had taken on a new way of life. So at our Baptism a white robe was placed around us to symbolise that a change has taken place and as a sign of our Christian dignity.

### The Candle

The Baptismal Candle is lit from the Paschal Candle. The Paschal Candle represents the Risen Christ with the marks of His five wounds. The Baptismal Candle is a sign that the Risen Christ now shares His life and love with all the newly baptised. The Baptismal Candle symbolises the passing on the Light of Christ, the light that overcomes the darkness~

