

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May he let his face shine upon you and show you his mercy. May he turn his countenance towards you and give you his peace. Amen **Fr Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention	Sat 8th Dec 10.00am Michael Farrell
Mon 10.00am Joseph Ryan	
Tues 8.00am Kathleen & John Kelly & dec family members	
Tues 10.00 Maurice & Vera O'Connor	
Wed 8.00am Pat O'Reilly	Sat 6.30pm Salvatore Saputo
Wed 10.00am Patrick Smith	Brendan McGarry
Thurs 8.00am Pat O'Reilly	
Thurs 10.00am Christina Stefanazzi	
Seamus Murphy (1st An)	Sun 8.30am Teresa Malone
Fri 8.00am Altar list of the Dead	Sun 11.15am Peggy Dillon
Fri 10.00am Altar list of the Dead	
Fri 6.30pm Michael & Mary Vesey	

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 11.00am (Irish Mass)

We will have a Mass for those on the Altar List of the Dead on the first Friday of each month starting this Friday 7th December at 9:20 AM. We will have Mass on Saturday 8th December for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 9:20AM.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Geraldine Griffin

Lispopple Swords



Advent Wreath-week 1

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:12-13)



Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 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

1st Sunday of Advent

Past, Present and Future

"To you, I lift up my soul, O my God"

Newsletter Sunday 2nd December 2018

The word 'Advent' means 'coming' or 'presence', and historically indicated the arrival of the king or the emperor in a province. For us as Christians it has the wonderful and awe-inspiring meaning that God Himself has crossed over from Heaven and inclined towards man; he has made a covenant with man, entering into the history of His people. He is the king who enters into the poor province of earth, offering us the gift of His visit, taking on human flesh and becoming one of us. Advent is the start of the Liturgical Year. In order to fully appreciate the liturgy, we take as our starting point the incarnation (birth of Jesus) and the later coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Until the incarnation the understanding of God was philosophical; prayerful reflection; intellectual etc., but the Jewish people were monotheistic – they believed in One God.

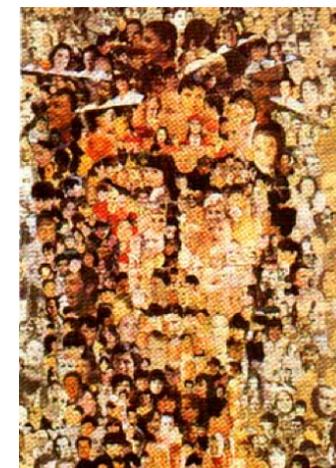
With the incarnation, however, the manner in which we come into saving contact with God is radically changed, and the flesh becomes the instrument of salvation. As St. Paul says our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and God being born as man in Jesus has raised 'our flesh' to the level of the divine. When we talk about liturgy we are talking about past, present and future.

The Past: Christ who is born according to the flesh represents the fulfilment of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). For Christians Jesus is the continuation and fulfilment of the Old Testament hopes of a Saviour and Messiah. God in Christ adds a fuller dimension to the **primary word** that God had already spoken to Israel when he made them his people and his witnesses.

The Present: Through signs, we are in contact with Christ who continues to be present. Our experience of God is Word and Sacrament. Only because the body of Christ is glorified is it possible to enter into contact, here and now, with all the mysteries (What are these mysteries? – think of the Rosary) The celebration of Christmas is not just remembering a past event but making it present for us here and now. The expectation that characterises Advent is a genuine expectation, and not a 'pretend one,' an expectation which Christmas makes real.

The Future: In our liturgical experience of God, we are always looking to the future. We are not simply being drawn towards a future; we are building it together with Christ, who is present through us. For us as Christians, the future that we are looking forward to is a heavenly future to which the Risen Christ shepherds us along 'The Way'

So let us this Advent, the beginning of the Church's year, remind ourselves and enter fully into the fact that by his birth death and resurrection, the Lord has saved us, he with us **NOW** and is guiding us towards a glorious future.



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*



The Season of Advent

A new spiritual and liturgical year begins today. We are familiar with "new year resolutions" when the secular year turns. What about our hopes for this coming year of faith and discipleship? Today, we ask God's guidance and blessing for the year just beginning. Each of us has a double task: to discern what God is calling me to and to decide what to put in place to facilitate my response to God's call.

The Advent season, full of longing, joy and hope, is a clarion call to renew once more, in a conscious and personal fashion, our engagement with the Good News. Maranatha!

Communion Children

At the back of the Church is a basket containing the names of the boys and girls who are preparing for their 1st Holy Communion next year. Please take a name and keep that boy or girl and their families in your prayers for the coming year.

Garda Vetting

To date 104 Ministry Team members and Volunteers, in Swords and Drynam have been successfully Garda Vetted. This is wonderful and I thank all for their patience and co-operation.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now ready for distribution – I need your help to have these cards dropped onto people's letterboxes. If you can take a road or an estate it would be greatly appreciated. Thank You!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

We celebrate Mary, who, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows:

St. Colmcille's: Friday 7th December (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Saturday 8th December 10.00am
(No 8.00am this Year as it's a Saturday) **Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam Sat 8th December 9.20am**



CAROL SERVICE - St Colmcille's Church Sun 9 Dec 2018 at 5pm



The Parish Community is delighted to announce that, having missed last year, the Annual Carol Service again takes place on Sunday 9 Dec 2018, at the later time of 5pm. Under the direction of our Choir Director, Morgan Crowley, changes have been introduced to make the programme more invigorating and interesting. These include solo performances by small groups and individuals adding to the Choir's wonderful harmonies, but popular seasonal carols are still included. We would ask you to support our Choir by attending and bringing your family and friends to this wonderful presentation of the great seasonal carols. **Note that the start time is an hour later at 5pm**

Christmas Draw 2018 - last chance to buy tickets

The draw will take place **TODAY AT 4PM** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

CHRISTMAS
RAFFLE

1st Prize €1000

2nd Prize €250

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 this weekend. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy and in the Parish Office on Seatown Road.

To summarise: • Draw on 2nd December • The cost of a ticket is €2 or 3 for €5

• **Good Prizes** • **Please Support**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place next weekend on w/end of **December 8TH/9TH**. It will be the second collection replacing Share.

Members of the local Conference will speak at all Masses and will address the issue of the spiralling number of families in our Parish who are finding themselves on the 'breadline'. The Conference depends on your generosity to meet requests for assistance for these families. We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year.

Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)

JESSE TREE-week 1

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom' (Is 11.7). The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His Only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. The first week of Advent will see the following symbols on our Jesse Tree in both our churches

Apple

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. People began to disobey the commands of God and so we needed a redeemer

Ark

When Noah, his family and all the animals came out of the ark, God promised that he would always love his people. God's love was shown when Jesus came to live with us

Joseph's Dreamcoat

Joseph's Dreamcoat reminds us of the story of Joseph and his brothers. After he was rejected and sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, through understanding dreams, Joseph became an important person in the Egyptian kingdom.

