

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 10th/11th**. 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)

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Kathleen & John Kelly	Sat 10.00am Mark Bradazon
Mon 10.00pm Maggie & Jack Nulty & Gerry Walsh	
Tues 8.00am Hinda Duff	
Tues 10.00am Patrick Smith Jnr	Sat 6.30pm Gabrielle Flynn
Wed 8.00 Teresa McCann	Joseph Cain (1st An)
Wed 10.00 Gerry Ryan	Lily Markey (MM)
Wed 6.30pm Michael & Mary Vesey	
Thurs 8.00am Priests of the Parish	Sun 8.30am Teresa Malone
Thurs 10.00am Marie Farrell	Sun 11.00am Peggy Dillon
Fri 8.00am Eileen Kavanagh	
Fri 10.00am Philip Markey	Sun 6.30pm Patrick Barry Jnr

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Catherine Callaghan

Castlegrove



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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)& 12 noon ,Mon & Tues 9.20am

Tea and coffee after all Masses today. We will have our monthly Drynam Pastoral Team meeting tomorrow night at 8:00pm. Please let us know if you would like anything discussed.

JESSE TREE-Week 2

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. Today is the Second Sunday in Advent and we now add three more symbols to the Jesse tree in both our churches.

Star of David Jesus was born into the house of David, the great king of Israel. This symbol also reminds us of the star the magi followed to find the baby Jesus

Jacobs Ladder Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Jesus opened the gates of heaven kingdom for all of us

David's Crown David was King of Israel for many years, and it was promised that the Messiah would come from the house of David. Because Joseph became Mary's husband. Jesus was born into the house of David



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948, 087 1621662
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

2nd Sunday of Advent

Let light shine out of darkness

"To be open to a genuine encounter with others, 'a kind look' is essential (Amoris Laetitia 100)"

Newsletter Sunday 4th December 2016



The Season of Advent

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 invites us to retrace this path and reminds us again the God has not left this world, He is not absent and has not abandoned us to our own devices, but instead draws towards us in various ways that we must learn to recognise. And we too, with our faith, hope and charity, are called upon every day to perceive and witness this presence, in a world so often superficial and led astray, and to make the light that illuminated the stable in Bethlehem shine anew in our lives. So what practical steps can we undertake to prepare during this Advent Season. Here are some suggestions and each of us can pick the ones that appeal to us the most:

- Set aside a few moments every day to talk to Our Lord – to be with him in spirit and in prayer – in church if you can, if not, then in your room, in your home.
- Take a look at your family situation and see if it's possible to pray together before or after an evening meal, or before you go to bed.
- If you've fallen out with somebody, make a move to make it up.
- Go out of your way to visit some relative or neighbour whom you have neglected all year.
- If you have relatives abroad, be sure to make contact before Christmas.
- Don't spend all your Christmas money on yourself and your family and friends; put something aside for the poor.
- Be sure to include the Sacrament of Penance in your Advent preparations – don't carry over your sins into Christmas Day.
- Enjoy a few happy hours with your husband or wife or a good friend. Enjoy friendship. Our Lord loved it – loved to celebrate with his friends – especially over a meal. Christianity is a celebration of friendship – our friendship with God and with each other. Advent is a joyful time. Enjoy it – God knows how we'll be next year.
- Advent is all about people and the welcome we should give them in the Lord. Pray for openness and a loving acceptance of those who may be joining us for Christmas, even if, from previous experience, you're afraid that they'll drive you mad!!

So there you are – take your pick(s). take greater control of your life and let Advent come alive in you! (source: *These might help - Veritas publications*)

Fr. Michael Carey

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Behold the joy which comes to you from the Lord

Jesse Tree & Advent Wreath

Once again a sincere thank you to John Walsh who supplied the lovely Jesse Tree for St. Colmcille's and I thank the flower ladies: Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney for the beautiful Advent Wreath



Advent Gifts

Gift 2 – God's Word of Comfort

The gift for the second week of Advent is that God speaks a reassuring word of comfort in the midst of our discontent and longing. In this quiet season—a season we tend to fill up with a lot of noise and frantic activity—make time daily to listen for the comforting words of God in your life. Probably the quickest way to begin hearing those words is to create a daily gratitude list. Set aside five minutes each morning or evening and take a few deep breaths. When you are settled, start jotting down whatever comes to your mind that you are grateful for. With a heart full of gratitude, everything else in our lives will change. We will begin to see, even in the demands of our Christmas preparations, the real purpose of those efforts - celebrating the Lord's arrival in our life and the lives of those we love.

Do This in Memory

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

Boys and Girls please bring to this Mass the 'baby Jesus' who will be placed in your crib at home and the priests will bless him.

Advent Wreath-week 2

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'.

2nd CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PEACE – God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem.

We work for peace-because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Today is the second Sunday of Advent and we will light the candle of Peace

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you would bring peace and save your people from trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide.



Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards are now ready for distribution. We would appreciate if you could take a road or an estate and drop into people's letterboxes Thank You!

Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim w Niedziele 11 Grudzien o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)

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: Wednesday 7th December (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Thursday 8th December 8.00am and 10.00am **Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam** Thursday 8th December 9.20am

Christmas Draw-this weekend

Ticket sales began on 19th November and all seems to be going well. The fundraising committee are doing a great job! The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 4th December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road.

1st Prize €1000

2nd Prize €500

There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €1 each and a book of 6 tickets for €5. Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses (not Sunday evening Mass)



Annual Carol Service and Readings

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on **Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm**, with the Parish Choir.



Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in both Sacristies and Parish Office. 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.

The Pro Life organisation Family & Life (www.prolife.ie) will be holding a talk and training on "How to argue the case for the Pro Life Amendment" in Brackenstown Parish Centre on Tuesday 6th December at 7pm. All are welcome.

Christmas Reflection. An evening of talk and reflection by Fr. Paddy Boyle, will be held on Tuesday 13th December in St Colmcille's Church at 7.30pm, for Ministers of the Word and Ministers of the Eucharist. *Retired Ministers of the Word and of the Eucharist are especially welcome*, as indeed is anyone who may be interested.

Santa Run in aid of Swords CFR: Sunday Dec 11th @ 10.30am 5k race starting at 11am. @ Malahide Castle to raise funds for Swords Community First Responders. This voluntary group go live on Jan 20th and will respond to 999 calls in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service of cardiac arrest, heart attack, stroke and choking in the Swords area. Register online at www.popupraces.ie/events/santa-run-in-aid-of-swords-cfr