

Society of St. Vincent de Paul-CHRISTMAS APPEAL


The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place THIS WEEKEND. It will be the second collection replacing Share. – 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 Jerry Ryan	Sat 10.00am Carmel Morgan
Mon 10.00pm John & Lucy Melia	
Tues 8.00am Gerry Ryan	
Tues 10.00am Nora Broderick	Sat 6.30pm Paddy & Bridie Whelan Richard Dillon (MM)
Wed 8.00 John Joe Moles	
Wed 10.00 Saluapore Sapuro	
Thurs 8.00am Timmons & Clerkin Family	Sun 8.30am Paddy O'Donovan (MM)
Thurs 10.00am Phil Sheridan	Sun 11.00am Mary, Joseph, Tommy & Joey Gerrard
Fri 8.00am Nora O'Dea	
Fri 10.00am Fiona Burke	Sun 6.30pm John & Sadie McCormack

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Dessie O'Keefe	Forest Road	
Baby Niccoló Pento	Main Street	
Joseph Ryan	Highfields	
Bridget Daunt	Longlands	
Sean Kelly	Rathbeale Road	

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

Today at the 12:00 Mass, we will again have children from Holywell ETNS continuing their 'Do This In Memory Programme' with us.

JESSE TREE-week 3

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

The hammer of Joseph: Joseph became Mary's husband, and looked after Mary and Jesus. We thank him for the part he played in the life of Jesus

The Sun: Just as the natural sun gives light and life to all upon whom its rays fall so Christ, the Rising Dawn, dispels darkness and brings eternal life and light.

The Lily: The Lily represents Mary, the mother of Jesus. From earliest Christian days she has been called blessed. Her example of motherhood, the training she gave her child, her patience and love, the way she encouraged Jesus, and the manner in which she bore her later grief-all this has influenced all who love her.



Bethany Bereavement Support Group. Bethany trained members are available to provide a free confidential service of support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. The Group meet on the second & last Mon of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road. **Next Meeting 12th December.** For further information phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

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

3rd Sunday of Advent – GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Glory of God

“Love is thus a kind of craftsmanship (Amoris Laetitia 221)”



Newsletter Sunday 11th December 2016

The prophet Isaiah proclaims that his people will once again come to see the glory of the Lord. What does this mean? We don't use the word "glory" very much in our ordinary talk. When we hear it in church it can seem a bit quaint- one of those religious words that probably don't have much relevance to our daily lives. We do hear it a lot in church. We pray each Sunday: "Glory to God in the highest," like the angels at Jesus birth. In the Holy, Holy, Holy at mass we sing, "heaven and earth are full of your glory." After the Our Father we proclaim: "the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours." What does it mean to speak of the glory of God in these prayers? Do these words really have some meaning in our lives?

The bible uses "Glory" to refer to what happens when God somehow becomes visible in our world. Of course, God is invisible. The infinite holiness of God is so great that our eyes are too weak to it; our senses are too frail to perceive God. But when we get some hints in our experience of this great, transcendent, awesome God, the Bible calls those hints a perception of God's glory. God's glory is what we see or feel when the great invisible God becomes somehow visible to us. This can be a scary thing. So the Bible describes God's glory with images like fire, like the lightning and thunder of a huge storm, like an earthquake that turns whole cities upside down. The greatness of God is very dangerous. It is awesome -literally, it inspires awe in those who see even hints of it.

Moses saw the glory of God on the top of Mount Sinai. When this happened, his face became so radiant that he had to put a veil over it to keep from burning the eyes of those who looked at him. To see God's glory in its full force could burn us this way too- the brightness and heat would be just too much for us. So maybe it would be better not to have anything to do with it. But Isaiah tells us that God's glory is not only something more powerful than any earthquake.

The really extraordinary glory is God's compassionate love. This love is truly glorious in the way it goes beyond anything we could imagine or realistically hope for from God. Isaiah describes God's glory to the exiles in Babylon this way: "the eyes of the blind will be opened and the lame will walk." The people close to despair in Babylon will be ransomed by the Lord and "will return to Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy." They will know God's glory when they experience God's compassionate love and hear God's word to their frightened hearts: "fear not! I come to save you." This joy, freedom from fear, and salvation is what Jesus brings us at Christmas. No wonder the angels sang "Glory!" (Source: Ignatius – David Hollenbacj S.J.) **Fr. Michael Carey**

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Christmas Draw

Congratulations to Matt McCormack who won 1st prize in our first ever Christmas Draw. The Christmas draw was held last Sunday in the Parochial house. A big thank you to all who attended. It was a lovely afternoon. And I thank the hospitality team for the light refreshments. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the Fundraising Committee who undertook this onerous task. They arranged for loads of things including: ticket sellers; setting up of the table, in order to sell tickets in the Church (*money changers in the Temple!*) and they arranged for ticket selling in JC's Supermarket and Supervalu, both stores to whom I offer on behalf of the Parish a big 'thank you'. Thanks to all who sold the tickets in the Church and the Supermarkets and thanks to all who took books of tickets to sell to family and friends. Paddy Gerrard sold over 100 books of tickets! Thanks to those who donated prizes: Kathleen Power for the beautiful a cake; Total Produce for a lovely basket of fruit and JC's for donating bottles of wine.

Whilst I don't have the final figure to hand as I write this newsletter the income over expenditure in terms of surplus is circa €4000. A fantastic amount for our first draw. The list of the eleven prizewinners, in order are as follows:

Matt McCormack; David O'Connor; David Power; Shane O'Conner; Elaine Greaney; Ann Cahill; Bernadette Gibney; Mary Forbes; Debbie Thornbury; Eoin McGurk and John Dunne – Congratulations One and all!

A New Principal

Congratulations to Ms. Ciara Brangan who from this Sunday takes over as School Principal in **St. Colmcille's BNS**. She replaces Mr. Kieron Lyons who grasped at an opportunity that he couldn't refuse, namely to apply for and succeed in becoming Principal in his old school in Huntstown. It was a privilege to work with Mr. Lyons and I wish him all the best as he takes up his new role. The new Principal, Ms. Ciara Brangan, has been a teacher in St. Colmcille's BNS from the time that she left teaching college 18 years ago. She has a real grá for the school and I know that she will be brilliant! On behalf of the Parish I wish Ciara all the best and we offer her all our prayers. Finally, a big thank you the Chairperson of the Board of Management, Ms. Veronica McDermott who undertook the onerous and very responsible task of interviewing for the position.

Scoil an Duinninigh

This Gaelscoil is in our Parish in Drynam and is under the patronage of the Archbishop. Last Monday I presided at the Commitment Ceremony for the boys and girls who are journeying towards Confirmation. Well done to the girls and boys and to the excellent preparation by class teacher supported by the school principal, Ms. Ní Laighin

Advent Gifts

Gift 3 – God's love placed in your heart

This week in Advent we focus on hearts: glad hearts, sad hearts, hard hearts, broken hearts, longing hearts. In the Scriptures much is written about hearts because the heart represents the person's deepest identity. Our hearts reveal who we most truly are because they hold what we most deeply desire. What's in your heart can give many answers to that question, and it's a good question to ponder during this week of Advent. But God has an answer for that "question, too. "I will put my law within them, and write it on their hearts, says the Lord. So in addition to whatever else might be in your heart, you can also be sure that the law of the Lord is written in permanent ink on your heart. That law is love.

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to 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. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

• Confirmation Mass

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, for their second Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

- Advent Wreath - 3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! "...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" (Luke 2:7-15)

• Advent Penance Service

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about a guilt-trip. Rather, it is about unburdening. The Lord invites us to receive from him 'rest for our souls' (Mt 11:29) so that he may set us free (Lk 4:18) that we may continue to seek to live 'life to the full' (Jn 10:10). Jesus is encountered in and through the Sacrament. The Advent/Christmas Reconciliation service takes place in **St. Colmcille's, Swords on Monday 19th December at 7.30pm** and in St. Cronan's Brackenstown on Tuesday 20th December at 7.30pm. This is a communal penance service with visiting priests for the Swords Grouping for individual Confession.

• Christmas confessions

Confessions in St. Colmcille's will be available on Saturday 17th December from 10.30am to 11.00am and on Saturday 24th (**Christmas EVE**) from 10.30am to 12noon

• Annual Carol Service and Readings

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church **today 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.

- 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.