

The twin commandment has to become a single inspiration. It must drive me to build the kingdom of God on earth. It must leave me longing for the heavenly Jerusalem. (Source: To be a Pilgrim-Cardinal Basil Hume)

*Fr. Michael Carey*

### Mass intentions for Next Week

**Mon** 8.00am Dec members of McLoughney Family

**Mon** 10.00am Mac Madden

**Tues** 8.00am Gerry Foley

**Tues** 10.00am Kathleen & Patrick O'Reilly

**Wed** 8.00am John Bond

**Wed** 10.00am Jimmy Aherne

**Thurs** 8.00am Special Intention

**Thurs** 10.00am Adrienne Byrne

**Fri** 8.00am Noel O'Connor

**Fri** 10.00am Edward & Annie Coppinger

**Sat 10.00am** Morning Prayer

**Sun** 6.30pm Liam Gargan

**Sun** 8.30am Jack Savage, Sheila Byrne  
& Claire O'Brien

**Sun** 11.00am Patricia Hennelly

**Sun** 6.30pm Jim O'Rourke & Tess O'Rourke

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

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

Next Sunday 24th June we will have the last Irish Mass at 11:00 in Drynam before the break for July and August. It will recommence on Sunday 2nd September.

### Parish Choir needs new members

Our parish choir wants to invite people to join. You don't have to be a good singer because, with practice, you will improve; vocal chords like any muscle improve with exercise. Singing gives you a wonderful feeling because it releases endorphins, the feel-good chemicals in the brain. It's also an aerobic activity and a natural stress-reducer.

We take new members gently through the repertoire, and provide them with our hymn book, so there is nothing daunting about being among us. We need men and women of all ages -an injection of fresh faces and voices to maintain it into the future, otherwise our choir, which has been performing over many decades, with its great repertoire and harmonies will die away. We finish for Summer after Cemetery Sunday 24 June, and restart on Sunday 3 September. We gather at 10.30am on Sundays for some preparation, and have a practice night 7pm to 9pm once a month. (For further information contact: Maurice 086 8305917)

*To quote the famous expression of St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice."*

### World Meeting of families – 3<sup>rd</sup> National Collection

Pope Francis has personally chosen Dublin to be the host diocese for the World Meeting of Families from 21-26 August 2018. Hosting this important event requires an enormous amount of planning and funding. In this regard a third national collection will be held **this weekend**. Your support for this collection would be greatly appreciated. We take this opportunity to thank you for your support for the previous two national collections.

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:**

**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**

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

*“O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help”*

Newsletter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Jesus Christ gave his Church a mission to the world and to every generation. It is to proclaim the Good News that in Jesus Christ everyone can be reconciled with God and with other people. In every age the same message had to be given: “The Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News” (Mk 1.15). The proclamation of this Gospel, the call to repentance and our response of faith and conversion are supremely important events both for society and for individuals, and at two levels.

The kingdom of God is everlasting and will be manifest in all its magnificence only at the end of time. Its citizens are adopted as children of God, sharing the divine life and destined for eternity of union with God. That is one level of reality.

There is a second level. The kingdom of God is also close at hand. Its foundations are being laid here and now in the concrete situations of our daily lives. A new society has to be created for the human race which has been given new dignity and a new future since the Son of God became Son of Mary and died for the sins of his people. In this new society – which is no bigger than a mustard seed and yet is as powerful and pervasive as yeast in dough – men and women affirm their unalienable worth and dignity as individuals. They labour for themselves and others to build “a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, peace and love” (Mass of Christ the king).

If then we repent and believe the Good News, we commit ourselves to the Kingdom in this world as in the next. Through Baptism we are reborn in the likeness of our brother, Jesus Christ. We recognise his likeness in others. We experience a bond between us which transcends differences of gender, race, culture and class. As St. Paul says: “All are baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3:28).

If I am in the market place serving Christ in my brothers and sisters, there is part of me longing to be in the desert, alone with God. When I am in the desert alone with Him, there is part of me eager to rush back to the market place to be with others. When we try to live both these commandments, loving God and our neighbour, we discover that the two become one. We cannot love God or humankind unless we learn about God from our experience of others and learn to love others in the light of our commitment to God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Loving God must indeed include loving those made in His image and likeness. Loving my neighbour leads me to discover in them the face of the Father's Divine Son. The face of Christ will be seen in a quite special manner in those who are bruised and who suffer. This is why active concern for our neighbour is an essential element of our spiritual lives and our religious growth.



## 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.*



### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July

This date is fast approaching and the new weekend Mass roster 'kicks in'. The roster will be as follows:

**Saturday:** Evening Vigil at 6.30pm **Sunday:** Mass at 8.30am, Mass at 10.00am in Drynam, Mass at 11.15am

The swords grouping will have a Sunday evening **Mass in St Cronan's, Brackenstown at 5.30pm**

### Sunday Evening Mass Intentions

The Masses booked for the 6.30pm Sunday Evening from 1<sup>st</sup> July have to be reassigned. Where there are phone numbers I will contact people. As a default position I will reassign them to the Saturday Evening Mass at 6.30pm. Of course they can be transferred to the Brackenstown Sunday Evening Mass at 5.30pm. If none of these options suit and the stipend has already been offered it will be returned.

### Golf Classic-2018

This year was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Classic. It was a tremendous success and all participants enjoyed it – eighteen teams took part this year.

On behalf of the Parish I want to sincerely thank and commend the organising committee who did such a marvellous job and gave an enormous amount of their time and talents:

**John and Bernie Campbell; Betty McDonald; Jack and Maura Moore; Ann and Paddy Farrell and Pat Lynch.** I also thank the people who entered teams; the people who sponsored holes and the people who contributed prizes for the raffle. Many tickets were sold for the raffle. Fourteen prizes were kindly donated for the raffle run in conjunction with the golf. Two weekends were set aside for the sale of tickets at the weekend Masses and then in the lead up to the classic and well as on the day itself. Thank you to the 'Mass' ticket sellers as well as what I will call the constant sellers – Caitriona Farrell and Bernie Campbell. I also thank Peter O'Brien, past captain of Forrest Little golf club who tied up all the loose ends and was an invaluable help with the Golf Club and also Tim Ralph who spent the day taking photographs. Finally, Forrest Little Golf Club has a great golf course and facilities that are second to none. I wish to thank them for the use of their facilities and for their great hospitality. Many thanks also to the catering staff who provided us with a beautiful meal which was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all who won prizes and supported the raffle. Team 'Michael Rock' won the first prize in the golf.

### St. Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

This takes place on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August**. To book your seat please contact Mary: 087-2711376 or Ita: 01-8402268. The Coach costs €15 and will depart from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. There will be a stopover for Breakfast/Snack en – route and an Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel, Srokestown. (This cost is not included in the coach fare)

### St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **this weekend Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> June** at all Masses

### Inter - Parish Picnic

The organising committee should take a well deserved bow – it was a wonderful occasion and a tremendous success. It was an initiative of the Parish Pastoral Councils of the three Swords Parishes and they did a great job. The turnout was fantastic and I know all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Usually this type of event is organised on a Diocesan level – we were just three parishes! It was great to see so many children and there were wonderful events organised for them. We discussed the picnic at the Parish Pastoral Council last Monday. Some of the comments were as follows:

- It demonstrated that the town and hinterland of Swords are 'a community together'.
- Whilst we are three distinct parishes there is an overlap, which is good and that the frequenting of the different parishes for Mass etc. is an okay thing to do, even if it's just a break from your own Parish and going somewhere else for something different.
- It also helped to appreciate our own Parish and what we have.

Finally, I'd like to sincerely thank the following supermarkets who donated towards the picnic: **Woodies; Aldi; Supervalu; JC's and Lidl.**

### Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 4.00pm

This Mass (with the participation of the Choir) will take place in St. Colmcille's Church. Before the final blessing, I will pray a prayer of blessing for all buried in the Cemetery. This is always a significant event in our parish Calendar and is an important annual occasion, therefore as you would expect a lot of work goes into this Mass by the Liturgy Team. If you want to 'hear', celebrate the Mass I invite you to come into the Church, or at least gather around the front door. There will be no use of a sound system that will reach the 'four corners' of the cemetery.

### Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be distributed in the Church and immediately outside the front door. Ministers will not be stationed in the cemetery as the demand is not there.

### Individual Graves

The Mass itself, is offered for all buried in our cemetery and the prayer of blessing (above), it refers again to all buried 'in this cemetery'. To that end **there is no need** for all graves to be individually sprinkled and nor will that happen. What I will do after the Mass is 'sprinkle' the different sections of the graveyard.

**Why not?** Bring a small bottle of holy water and sprinkle your family grave during the Mass.

### Cemetery Sunday – Ministers of the Eucharist

Could Ministers of the Eucharist who are free and available to distribute Holy Communion on Cemetery Sunday please let Mary McCarthy know. Thank You

### Cemetery Sunday – Collection

As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

Next Saturday Morning Prayer will be celebrated in St Colmcille's Church at 10.00am . Prayer Book week 3