

Pope Francis said: “I thought, but this man, who forgave the sins of all the clergy of Buenos Aires, including mine, not even a flower. I went up and went to a florist — because in Buenos Aires there are flower shops at the crossroads, on the streets, where there are people — and I bought flowers, roses . . . and I returned and began to decorate the coffin with flowers.

And I looked at the rosary in his hands. . . . And immediately it came to mind — the thief that we all have inside of us, don’t we? — And while I was arranging the flowers, I took the cross off the rosary, and with a little effort, I detached it. At that moment I looked at him and said: ‘Give me half of your mercy.’ I felt something powerful that gave me the courage to do this and say this prayer! I put the cross here, in my pocket. But the pope’s shirts don’t have pockets, but I always carry it with me in a little cloth bag, and that cross has been with me from that moment until today. And when an uncharitable thought against someone comes to mind, my hand always touches it here, always. And I feel the grace! I feel its benefit”.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am In Honour & Thanksgiving of the most Precious Blood

Mon 10.00am Bridie Mulhall

Tues 8.00am The Moran Family

Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer

Tues 10.00am Muriel Harford

Sat 6.30pm Niamh Sheridan

Wed 8.00am Declan Garry

Wed 10.00am Tom & Alice Kane

Vera & Vinnie Pepper

Sun 8.30am Christopher & Ann Farron

Thurs 8.00am Daniel Roche

Sun 11.00am Cora Mullarkey

Thurs 10.00am **NO MASS**

Fri 8.00am Daniel Roche

Sun 6.30pm Matt Caul

Fri 10.00am Eileen & Andrew Donnelly

Alice Roe (MM)

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

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

Next Sunday St. Vincent de Paul will have their monthly collection after Mass.

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are continuing our parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes.

Conversation 3:

Tuesday 24th April in St. Colmille’s Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday 24th April in St. Cronan’s Pastoral Centre on from 7.30pm - 9:00pm

Thursday 26th April in St. Finian’s, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Vocations Sunday

“The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth”

Newsletter Sunday 22nd April 2018

The Fourth Sunday of Easter offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. For over fifty years the universal Church has celebrated this Sunday as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. In this way she reminds us of our need to pray, as Jesus himself told his disciples, so that ‘the Lord of the harvest may send out labourers into his harvest’ “As baptised Christians we all share in the Priesthood of Christ and we are all called to work for Christ in our world. The response to this call takes many forms, in how we live our lives and in how we work, but within that context, vocation to the priesthood will always have a vital and fundamental place in Christian living.

The call to priesthood is a call apart, a call to immerse oneself in Christ, a call to be with and work with the community. The priest is a leader and a servant who moulds his life on the example Christ has given. At the very centre of the priesthood is the celebration of the Eucharist. John Paul II described it as the source and summit of the Christian life. As a minister of the Eucharist and other sacraments, he is a source of life for the whole Body, the Church.

The life of the priest is a life of service and love, a life that touches people at their deepest level, where they meet with God. A priest is human and has all his own human failings but by working sincerely and authentically can know that what he does is of infinite value.

Those called to priesthood and who are accepted into formation should not be put off by fear of their shortcomings. The priest is not a superman; the priest is rather one who lives his life faults and all to the best of his abilities. Many are called but few are chosen so don’t ignore the call rather explore it and see if priesthood is for you. The formation process helps the student discern the call and helps the person understand if they can live the life, because while God calls he would never expect someone to do that which they cannot do. A vocation is God’s invitation to you and all you can do is explore it and respond with “yes” or “no”!

As Christians prayer is central in our lives, Christ tells us “to ask and it shall be given” and so we should ask constantly that the Lord of the harvest will send willing helpers into the fields”. – *Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*

In a talk to the priests of Rome Pope Francis reminisced about a priest whom he knew in Buenos Aires.

This priest had been the provincial of his religious community and also had been a university professor, but he was most well known as a confessor. Pope Francis related that many of the priests of Buenos Aires went to this priest for confession.

The priest died in his mid-90s, just before the Easter Vigil. The body of the priest lay in state in the crypt of one of the churches where he had served. The future Pope went to pay his respects and discovered there was not a single flower adorning the area around his casket.



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.*



Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-28th April, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 4

Thursday 26th April

There will be no 10.00am Mass this day as the Parish is celebrating Confirmations. There will be 8.00am Mass

Sacrament of Confirmation - GNS

Next Thursday 26th April, the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. On behalf of the Parish I am delighted to welcome Bishop Ray Field who will administer the Sacrament. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

Church Cleaners

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 27th April** after the 10.00am Mass. Can the cleaners for this second Friday of the month please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

First Penance

Congratulations to the boys and girls from Scoil an Duinninigh who received their First Penance last Monday. They were excellently prepared by their teachers.

1st Holy Communion

Next Saturday 28th April at 11am, the boys and girls from Scoil an Duinninigh will receive their 1st Holy Communion. I wish the school well in all their preparation this coming week, and I hope the weather is fantastic on the day.

Liturgy Team

The Liturgy Team will meet this Tuesday 24th April at 8.00pm in the Parochial House.

Family Carers - Are you caring for a family member at home? A spouse, a partner or a close relative or neighbour? Then you are a Family Carer - become a member of Family Carers Ireland and benefit from a local and national network that helps family carers who need advice and that informs and influences government policy relating to home-based care. As a member you can also avail of our exclusive deals. For more information call 05793 22920 or visit our website www.familycarers.ie

Red Hurley – You raise me up

Red Hurley and Whitehall Parish Choir – Proceeds in aid of new church organ. Tickets €20. Venue – Church of the Holy Child, Whitehall on Friday 27th April at 8pm. For Tickets call 01-8375274

Vocations Sunday - Collection

A Special Collection to support our students for the priesthood replaces the usual Share Collection, **this weekend** Sat/Sun 21st/22nd April. Your support is very much appreciated. *Priestly ministry brings satisfaction, again not the satisfaction of security, but the satisfaction of following the path of Jesus which opens to light and hope, the satisfaction of serving others – Archbishop Diarmuid Martin*

Towards the Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

Choose Life 2018 is a weekly newsletter www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018. There are some copies on the table at the back of the Church.

Clare's Story "For as long as I can remember abortion has been a divisive issue in Ireland. At times, it is not easy to hold pro-life views as a medical student. I, like many other medical students, decided to pursue a career in medicine to help people and save lives. It is very easy to claim to be pro-choice, but committing the act is starkly different. "I have read and heard the testimonies of doctors in other countries who have, and who continue to conduct abortions. It makes for very bleak reading. Initially an emotional conflict often exists, a tug of war between the woman's right to choose versus the humanity of the unborn baby. In time this conflict of conscience is slowly eroded and one becomes completely desensitised to the unborn baby, irrespective of the stage of pregnancy. "Ireland has an excellent maternal care record. Despite the many faults of our broken healthcare system, this is a fact we should be very proud of. During my training, I have witnessed the amazing work of all those who are involved in caring for pregnant women from GPs to midwives and obstetricians. All deserve great credit for their unwavering work and dedication. "Best obstetric care advocates caring for two patients – the pregnant woman and her unborn baby. Irrespective of the circumstances of pregnancy, a doctor has a duty to care for the health and wellbeing of both. "Some pregnancies are planned, some unplanned and some even unwanted. In such instances, a woman needs compassionate care and support. The Eighth Amendment gives women in unplanned pregnancies time, instead of hastening into a rash decision they may later regret." *Clare Crowley, 27, is a final year medical student at the University of Limerick*

Early Christian Swords Exhibition

An exhibition titled "Early Christian Swords" will be held in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre, Brackenstown Road, Swords from Saturday 14th to Saturday 27th April. The Swords area is steeped in history and it was an important centre for Christianity in the early days of the Irish Church. The exhibition will feature displays on St Colmcille's Monastery, Glasmore Abbey/The Nunnery, and the local Holy Wells of St Colmcille, St Cronan and St Werburgh. The exhibition will be open to all and there will be no entrance charge.

Brackenstown Parish Pilgrimage to Poland 1-7 July 2018

Based in Krakow to include Wadowice, Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Wieliczka Salt Mines and the Shrine of Sr. Faustina Price: €835.00 per person sharing. Further details from Brackenstown Parish Office 8401188.