

if we are not sure of the presence of the Other. Praying – even saying familiar and much-loved memorised prayers – must bring us to divine encounter and to listen to God’s will for us. Prayer is communion of Person with person. It is the utterance of spirit to Spirit. Of life to Life

Prayer cannot be limited to set times, although that is necessary, too. The gospel says Jesus was “praying in a certain place.” We know that the Mount of Olives was one of his favourite places for prayer. Jesus had set times for prayer: before undertaking a mission, during ministry, early in the morning. Jesus also was constantly in communion with his Father; this is the “always” of prayer. This is what we really wish to emulate: communion with God as abiding presence. Lord teach us to pray! (Source: *Living Liturgy*) **Fr. Michael Carey**

#### **Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Fergus Giblin	Sat 6.30pm Kevin Leonard
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Agnes Donovan	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Bernie Gunnigan	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Bridget Pepper
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00 Colm Loughran	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Paddy Dillon
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Millie Davis & Son Ronald	John Taylor (MM)
	<b>Sun</b> 630pm Mary McGrane

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am**

Current Mass times at Drynam: Sunday 10:00 and 12:00 (No Irish Mass in July or August). Monday and Tuesday 9:20 AM.

#### **RECENTLY DECEASED**

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Enda Byrne**

**Windmill Ave**



#### **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The call to the Christian priesthood is a call to service. The gift of the priesthood is not given primarily to the individual but to the whole Church. Like the call to the religious life the one who is called to the priesthood is invited to affirm by their lifestyle that faith that one believes in. Let those who can accept this task, accept it.

**Reflection** - In the Church there is a diversity of ministry: lay, religious and priestly but a unity of mission, the proclamation and realisation of the Kingdom of God. It is by Baptism and Confirmation that this mission is entrusted to all. The Holy Spirit is the one who empowers each to carry out their individual mission and that of the community of the Church. (Source: *St. Paul’s Missal*.)

#### **Bethany Bereavement Support Group**

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 25th July. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-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**



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Ask and you will receive**

*“God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house”*

**Newsletter Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016**



Today’s readings are about the power of prayer. In the first reading, Abraham pleads with God to spare the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the gospel passage, Jesus urges us to ask his Father for what we need and assures us that our prayers will be answered. For some of us, that’s enough to keep us praying. But sometimes we wonder: Doesn’t God know what we need? Does God need reminding? And how about the times when we don’t get what we asked for?

Good questions! There are no easy answers because we can’t even begin to understand God, who always eludes our comprehension. And Jesus doesn’t try to explain either. But he is very clear about what we are supposed to do. He tells us to ask, to search, to keep knocking on the door, and he assures that the door will be opened.

In the gospels, Jesus is usually portrayed as a person of great patience. But sometimes he shows impatience, even resentment, at people who do not trust his Father to take care of them. This is one of those passages. Listen to him: ‘What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?’ Do you blame him for being impatient? After all God has done for us, how could we not trust? It’s as if we asked God: “What have you done for us lately?”

But what about the times when we didn’t get what we asked for? Well, those of you who have children know that sometimes they ask for things that are not good for them. Sometimes you just can’t give them all you want to. It’s the same with God. But Jesus assures us that no prayer goes unanswered; every prayer is answered in some way.

He says, “Ask and you will receive.”

What will you receive? He doesn’t say.

“Seek and you will find.”

Find what? Maybe not what we’re looking for. Maybe something better.

“Knock and the door will be opened.”

What is behind the door, he doesn’t say. But one thing is sure. Behind the door is a loving, caring God who is faithful, who will never abandon us. Don’t ever doubt that, for a minute.

(Source: *Sundays with Jesus: James DiGiacomo, SJ*)

#### **Living the Pascal Mystery**

The kind of prayer Jesus taught is prayer from the heart, a prayer of communion, a prayer of attentiveness to divine Presence, a prayer seeking God’s will. We cannot ask or seek or find

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)*

### Newsletter

There will be no newsletter for the next fortnight due to holidays. It is due to resume for Sunday 14th August

### 8.00 a.m. Morning Mass

For the next week there will be no 8.00am Mass, Monday to Friday. It will resume on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

### Confessions

Whilst the Saturday Morning 10.00am Mass is cancelled for the summer, there are Confessions available on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm.

Brackenstown – there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 10.00am Mass

River Valley - there are confessions on Saturday mornings after the 11.00am Mass

### All Roads Lead to Krakow

Young people from Dublin Parishes who together with a Team of 10 from the Archdiocese of Dublin (Fr. Paul – Brackenstown is part of this team) will travel to World Youth Day in Krakow from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016. We wish them well and a great time as they prepare to travel to Krakow at the invitation of Pope Francis they will gather together with him and over 2 million other young people from around the World at this Festival of Faith for Catholic Young People.



### Parish Office

The Parish office will be closed from Monday 1st August to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August. It will re-open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August

### Aware Opportunities

Aware, the National Organisation providing support and information to individuals and families impacted by depression and bipolar disorder is now recruiting new volunteers to train on a number of services. Aware has received the Investing in Volunteering Standard in recognition of the level of training and support it provides for its 400 volunteers. See [aware.ie](http://aware.ie) for specific info and requirements for all volunteering opportunities including the Aware Support Line (phone) & Support Groups (face-to-face). Minimum commitment is 18 months. Help Aware continue to be a supporting light through depression. [www.aware.ie](http://www.aware.ie)

### Collection for Lourdes Pilgrimage

Next weekend there will be an Outdoor Collection for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Trust. This collection goes towards sending ill people to the hospital in Lourdes during the Dublin Pilgrimage

## Year of Mercy – Indulgences

The twenty second paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues - A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God’s forgiveness knows no bounds. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God makes even more evident his love and its power to destroy all human sin. Reconciliation with God is made possible through the paschal mystery and the mediation of the Church. Thus God is always ready to forgive, and he never tires of forgiving in ways that are continually new and surprising. Nevertheless, all of us know well the experience of sin. We know that we are called to perfection (cf. Mt 5:48), yet we feel the heavy burden of sin. Though we feel the transforming power of grace, we also feel the effects of sin typical of our fallen state. Despite being forgiven, the conflicting consequences of our sins remain. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins, which he truly blots out; and yet sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act. But the mercy of God is stronger even than this. It becomes indulgence on the part of the Father who, through the Bride of Christ, his Church, reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.

The Church lives within the communion of the saints. In the Eucharist, this communion, which is a gift from God, becomes a spiritual union binding us to the saints and blessed ones whose number is beyond counting (cf. Rev 7:4). Their holiness comes to the aid of our weakness in a way that enables the Church, with her maternal prayers and her way of life, to fortify the weakness of some with the strength of others. Hence, to live the indulgence of the Holy Year means to approach the Father’s mercy with the certainty that his forgiveness extends to the entire life of the believer. To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the Church, who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ’s redemption, so that God’s love and forgiveness may extend everywhere. Let us live this Jubilee intensely, begging the Father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in his merciful “indulgence.”

## The Bible’s Most Important People

**Isaac** – the son of Abraham and Sarah whom God promised to the long-barren couple. God tested Abraham by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac at Moriah. At the site of the sacrifice, Abraham built an altar and placed his son atop it. But the angel of the Lord stopped the sacrifice, and God provided a ram instead. Isaac married Rebekah, but she had trouble conceiving, so Isaac prayed for a child. She bore two sons, Esau and Jacob.

## Ask, seek, knock

Jesus urges us to ask, seek and knock. This means our faith has to be an active one. However, sometimes we are too proud to ask, so we don’t receive, we are too lazy to seek, so we don’t find; and we are too timid to knock, so the door doesn’t open to us. We mustn’t wait for things to happen, or to fall into our hands. We must be humble and trustful, yet bold and energetic, if we are to receive good things from our Father in heaven. *(Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)*