

you imagine a manager of a large business saying to his Board of Directors that he spend a thousand Euro on a party because he had found a few cents that he has lost? In reflecting on the mercy of God we see that it goes way beyond anything we can imagine. It is always superabundant. I said that to someone recently and he told me that he went home and looked up the word in the dictionary because he did not know what it meant. Superabundant is something which is generous in a manner we could never imagine. It is that kindness which surprises us, helps us realise that our offences have been forgiven and then turns us head over heels with joy.

All I could say then to the anxious official of the Secretariat of State was that the logic of Jesus may appear stupid in terms of human calculation, but I have every reason for thanking that stupidity of our God who has the time to think of me with all my limitations, with all my failures with all my stubbornness, with all my self-centredness; the Lord of the Cosmos who has the time to come to my heart and give me encouragement and strength and the hope to keep going in my life and who rejoices when things go well for me. I can only rejoice and marvel that our God is so and I can only respond by trying myself to go and do likewise. We have received mercy and we are called to bring mercy". *Fr. Michael Carey*

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

**Mon** 8.00am John O'Brien

**Sat** 10.00am Phil Fitzpatrick

**Mon** 10.00am Katherine McIvor

Mary Farnan 1st An

**Tues** 8.00am Dec members of Blennerhasst Family

**Sat** 6.30pm Margaret Farrell

**Tues** 10.00am Special Intention

**Wed** 8.00 Dec members of Green Family

**Sun** 8.30am Essie Fitzsimons

**Wed** 10.00 Maureen & Har Donnelly

**Sun** 11.00pm Philip & Jason Glynn

**Thurs** 8.00am Dec members of Byrne Family

**Thurs** 10.00am Dec members of Green Family

**Fri** 8.00am Special Intention

**Sun** 6.30pm Tom Comber

**Fri** 10.00am Anna Daly

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

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

Today 30 children from Holywell Educate Together School will begin the Do This In Memory Programme in preparation for their First Holy Communion in May 2017. At 12:00 Mass we will have the Enrolment Ceremony for the children.

### **Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Every eucharistic celebration begins with the assembled people acknowledging their sins and asking for God's forgiveness. This is followed by a prayer in which the president of the assembly asks the Lord to absolve the sins of all. Having thus been reconciled with God and with one another we can proceed to the table of God's word and then to the table of his body and blood.

**Reflection** - The Church celebrates two sacraments of healing, namely, the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of Anointing of those who are sick. Jesus who forgave the sins of the paralytic man and restored him to bodily health is the pattern for these two. Through the power of the Holy Spirit his work of healing and salvation is continued in the Church in every age. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*.)

**Anam Cara**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Wednesday 19th of October from 19:30 to 21:00 in B.A.S.E, Brackenstown Road, Swords, Co. Dublin. This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not.

**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](http://www.swords-parish.com) Email: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com)**

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **Superabundant Mercy**

"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?"

Newsletter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them". The Pharisees are scandalised. It is easy to be scandalised by the teaching and the actions of Jesus, because his logic is not our logic.

In reflecting again on the theme of Mercy at the end of the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Archbishop had the following to say:

"Some of you may have heard me tell the story of one of my superiors when I worked in Rome, a saintly Vietnamese Cardinal who had spent more than thirteen years in prison, often in solitary confinement, without ever being charged with any crime. He was finally released and given a passport and an invitation to leave his homeland where he was never allowed to return.

Pope John Paul invited him to give the annual retreat for the Pope and the Cardinals and bishops of the Roman Curia. The Cardinal went away for two weeks and came back with his notes and conferences for the retreat almost complete. One morning I received call from someone in the Secretariat of State in the Vatican asking me to send them the titles of the various lectures the Cardinal had prepared, so that they could finalise the prayer booklet that would be given to each of the participants at the retreat.

Very soon after sending the titles I received an urgent and not quite unexpected telephone call. "What on earth is the Cardinal doing?" I was asked. "One of his talks is entitled: 'Jesus was stupid'. How can we publish such a title?"

I went to the Cardinal and he smiled and told me to tell the Secretariat of State to read the fifteenth Chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke – the Gospel we have just heard. He said: "tell them that the story of the woman who lost the drachma was a stupid story for Jesus to be telling. This woman loses a small coin and she sweeps and searches and lights up the entire house until she finds it and then what does he do? She calls in all her neighbours and throws a party which probably cost about a thousand times what the original drachma was worth. Is that not stupid?"

"And what about the shepherd" the Cardinal added, "who loses one sheep and leaves all the others to go and find it? And he leaves the ninety nine we are told "in the wilderness" where they could easily be lost or stolen by other shepherds, just to get one sheep who was probably a difficult sheep who got lost all the time. Is that not stupid?"

I think that you can begin to see now what the Cardinal meant by saying that Jesus told stories which were stupid. Jesus logic is not our logic. His love and mercy go way beyond anything that our human logic would think of or imagine as correct. Jesus' love and mercy go way beyond anything we deserve. Not only does he have a special care for anyone who is lost or who feels of less value than others, but he really rejoices in an extraordinary way when one stray returns to the fold, when one small almost valueless coin is found. Could



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

### Thank You

I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Fr. Gerry Desmond who has been assisting the Parish this past month. Today is his last 11.00 Mass and he returns to Peru this coming week. Fr. Gerry is a Columban Missionary Priest. But did you know that he is a brother of our Choir Director Anne McDonagh and also that his Parish Church in Peru is called St. Colmcille. Thanks again Gerry and wishing you a safe flight and go with our prayers.

### Bible Read-athon

I hope this idea/initiative is something that interests you. It is very simple and yet can be very rewarding for anyone who participates. To emphasise, it is not about being a good reader or have many 'look on' as you read. As I said in last week's newsletter, there is no need for preparation. You just turn up and carry on reading from where the reader before you finished.

To clarify, the schools which hopefully will come on board will read from 2.30 to 3.00pm, to tie in with their school finishing time. Please do consider and put your name down. It will be held on the Feast of St. Luke, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct from 3.00pm to 9.00pm. The day will be divided into 10 minute slots.

### Altar List of the Dead

These lists are now available at the back of the Church. The new lists will be placed in front of the altar on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – The Feast of All Souls. All Masses on the First Friday of the month will be offered for the names on the Altar List of the Dead.

**Dynam** - The Church of Our Lady of the Visitation will make its own arrangement for the celebration of Mass for the 'altar list of the dead'.

### The Rosary – A Living Tradition

The month of October is the Month of Our Lady (along with May) but October is in particular the month of the Rosary due to the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

The rosary has been a living, growing tradition within the Church over many centuries. The practice originated in the Middle Ages, with the recitation, 150 times, of the first part of what later became the Hail Mary. This was a kind of 'Psalter of Mary', mirroring the use of the 150 psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours. The medieval practice of reciting the Our Father fifteen times in honour of the Passion of Christ seems to have merged with the Marian prayers, one Our Father being attached to each decade. The second half of the Hail Mary gradually developed, and from around the sixteenth century, was generally included as part of the decade. The form of rosary as is best known today was finally established by 1569.



### Mass of Remembrance

On Wednesday 2nd November at 7.30pm, the Parish will celebrate Mass to remember and pray for all parishioners and friends who died during the past year. During this Mass each person will be remembered by name. All welcome especially family and friends. If you have a family member who died during the past year and would like their name called out, please contact Colette in the Parish Office (01-8407277) before Friday 21st October

## Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet this Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the Parochial House

### Invitation

A Unique Day Conference: **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**, 10am – 4pm

**“The Joy of Love, Amoris Laetitia and the World Meeting of Families in Ireland**

**2018**“at St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. It is a working in-service day for all of us preparing for the journeys leading to and towards participating in the World Meeting of Families, 2018. Pre-booking and registration is required for this event as places will be limited. Individual booking forms should be completed as soon as possible to include you and your colleagues and representatives. **Admission is free.** Lunch will be provided. Contact Colette at the Parish Office if you are interested

### St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **this** weekend at all Masses

### 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 10th October. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.  
Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend.

### We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Sofia Caitriona Dunne, Alex Rob Ryan, Elliot Christopher Ryan, Millie Mar Elizabeth Ryan, Charlie Alexander Heeney



**Highfield Healthcare** are looking for Volunteers- Would you have a couple of hours free every week to come visit some of our residents in Highfield Healthcare on the Swords Road? Our current volunteers range in age from 20-82 years and every person offers something unique to our programme. The main role of volunteering in Highfield is befriending our residents – just being there to talk, listen, reminisce and empathise.. Please contact Helen Hennessy, M: 086 8385181- E: [hhennessy@highfieldhealthcare.ie](mailto:hhennessy@highfieldhealthcare.ie) for more details

A meeting will be held in the Carnegie Court Hotel on Tuesday 11th October at 7.30pm on 'How to put the case for the Pro-Life Amendment'. All are welcome to attend.