

feet. Countless men, women and children are reliant on what we encounter during these moments of being gathered in faith, these times of being taken aside.

The disciples told Jesus that it was wonderful for them to be with him at such a revealing moment and they sought to capture the moment by building “tents” but they’re assured this is not where they need to stay. In a while we will hear “The Mass is ended, go in peace to Love and serve the Lord” and that is the moment Jesus tells us that we are needed not on the mountain top but at ground level where we can see the needs of people, hear their cry and make a difference. We may look to the mountains, attempt to climb them, maybe even conquer them but life is lived at ground level where we are all walking the same earth and entitled to do so.

The coins or notes in the Trócaire Box may be easier to count than the stars but let there be no doubt they will give certainty to many who are wandering, displaced, wondering and frightened. Note by note, coin by coin, they bring light where otherwise there would only be darkness and direction where otherwise chaos would reign. Was Abram able to count the stars? Of course not. Can we make a difference? Absolutely. (Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2019).

*Fr. Michael Carey*

#### **Intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am In Thanksgiving	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Cathal Kelly
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Special Intention - Holy Souls	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am McGreevy & Geraghty Families	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Anthony Casciani
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am John Heslip	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Emma O'Rourke Mythen	
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Margaret Lowndes	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Mary O'Connor Peter McDermott (1st An)
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Nora Daly	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Bevan Porter	
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Bridget Barry	

**At our Masses next weekend we also remember:** Bartley Savage ,Selina Cronin

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

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

Maintenance of the church is ongoing. We recently repaired a hole in the floor in the sanctuary area. Further improvement on the floor and carpet will be required.

#### *RECENTLY DECEASED*

**Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:**

Joseph Murphy                      Castlegrange Ave  
Michael Keneghan                  Jugback Lane



#### **Mass times for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March:**

St. Colmille's Church: 10.00am

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 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**

**2nd Sunday of Lent/St Patrick, Bishop, Principal**

**Patron of Ireland**

## **The Transfiguration**

*“I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you”*

Newsletter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019



This week's newsletter is a Trocaire reflection on a Gospel that is familiar to many of us. The Gospel that is normally read on this second Sunday of Lent, but not this year as the Feast of St. Patrick and its appropriate readings take its place, that Gospel is The Transfiguration. “Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray”. Climbing mountains and counting stars – neither is especially easy but for some, it's passion. Maybe not so much counting stars as knowing them, reading them and feeling safe beneath them. For the keen-eyed astronomer direction is never a problem. Neither is it for the mountain climber. Going up is the only way.

Today's readings take us from the stars to the ground beneath us and to the mountains in between. The universe and the call to get a better view of things are centre stage. “Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can”, Abram is told by the Lord – having first been taken “aside” – in other words to a place and space where he could reflect. The same is true of the Gospel passage where Jesus takes “aside” Peter, James and John so that they too can arrive at a place where they can reflect.

Does it truly enter our heads that where we are right now is standing with Abram counting the stars, stepping out and upwards with Peter, James and John? We have been taken “aside” from all that goes on around us during the week, from work, distractions, ups and downs to a place where we can reflect a little and, with the astronomer, be assured of our direction. With the mountain climbers, we look for the solid rock onto which we can hold and the firm stones that certain our feet. Only then can we move on, confident and seeking. The value of that rock, the solid comfort of those stones, the promise of the stars – all essential and found when we allow ourselves be taken aside.

Remembering our Trócaire campaign this year, we are reminded of those who run the great risk of not being taken aside but rather of being left outside. We are reminded too of those who only have the stars for a roof because their homes have been plundered, attacked, burned to the ground. We remember those whose lands have been unjustly taken and all for whom there does not seem to be a solid rock onto which to hold despite there being a mountain to climb.

Many people are looking to us now for light – to be stars. Many are seeking our solid and rock-like presence that they may find a sure grip and a solid base beneath their

## 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*



### Confirmation Mass – last

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their fourth and last 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.

### Are you supporting the Parish Initiative for Lent?

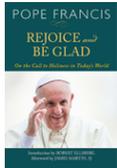
For this Lenten season, the parish Liturgy Team have come up with something new. For each of the Wednesday's of Lent a difference group in the Parish will pray the Stations of the Cross. This will take place on Wednesday Evening at 7.30pm and each week they will follow a different theme and all are welcome. This week, the Members of the Bethany Group will pray the Stations on **WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** in St. Colmcille's. Please do come along and attend

### Ceremony of Light - 2019

Confirmation Day is only a few weeks away. We are celebrating these days the final preparatory ceremony before the big day. This Ceremony of Light is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they, their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and that their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves. This ceremony was held for the girls of St. Colmcille's GNS last Tuesday and for the boys of St. Colmcille's BNS next Wednesday. Thanks to the teachers for their excellent preparation of their pupils.

### RCIA – Rite of Christian initiation of Adults

Our two candidates (*Simon Boelsch* and *Roger Cheng*) were at the Pro-Cathedral last Sunday afternoon to celebrate with the Archbishop, the 'Rite of Election of Catechumens for the Easter Sacraments and Recognition of Candidates for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church'. It was a beautiful ceremony and there were 22 participants from all over the Dublin Diocese. Together we have all begun the season of Lent, a period of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is a time of prayer and fasting, a time of deepening conversion, a time of passing over from sin to grace, from slavery to freedom, from death to new life in Christ.



### Take up Something for Lent

Our Parish Book Club, reading Pope Francis's Book, Rejoice and be Glad, has been taking place for the last two Thursdays. We will meet again on **March 21st at 2.30pm** in the Parochial House. You are welcome to come along if you were unable to attend last meetings. We will be discussing Chapter 3. Please contact

Colette at the Parish office for more information. Books will be supplied and tea and coffee will be served



## SAINT PATRICK - Patron of Ireland

Patrick is a link through which the people of Ireland and the people of God were brought together. Throughout their history, the people of Israel considered that they and they alone were God's people. With the teaching of the prophets This narrow outlook gradually opened out so that by the time of Jesus, the stage was set for the expansion of God's word to the ends of the earth.

**Reflection** - In Patrick's writings, especially in his Breastplate, Christ comes across as central to everything. He was very much aware of his mission in life. Like Paul, he believed that God had appointed him as an apostle to bring the gospel where it had not yet been heard. It was Patrick's choice to accept this mission. His response could have been otherwise. (*Source: St. Paul's Missal*)



**Evening of Reflection and Renewal for Ministers of the Word** St Finian's parish, Rivervalley invites all Ministers of the Word from the three parishes to an evening of reflection and renewal on their Ministry, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Beginning with evening prayer at 7.30pm. The evening will be directed by Fr Des.

## **DUBLIN DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SATURDAY 27th APRIL 2019**

The three Parishes in Swords have arranged buses to Knock for the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. We invite you to join our Pilgrimage and celebrate 140 years since the apparition in 1879

The buses will leave at 7:30am on Saturday 27th April. Cost of the bus is €20 and Children under 16 €10 Please bring a Packed Lunch - Tea & Coffee available in St. John's Centre, Knock. Bus will stop for 15 minutes on the way down and back.

**To book please contact Colette at the Parish Office**



## **Baptism Team Members**

There is a reflective evening being held in Clonliffe College on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 7.30pm to 9.30pm**. It is 'time out' for team members to deepen their own sense of Baptism. If you are interested, please let Colette know and she will book you in

## **Ministers of the Eucharist – a date for your diary**

There will be a reflective evening on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7.30pm**, to be held in Drynam Church. This evening will be directed by Fr. John Collins. Please do come along

## **Golf Classic - A date for your diary**

The fundraising committee will be running its annual Golf Classic in Forest little Golf Club on **Friday 7th June 2019**.