

Mercy, of its nature, is a pure gift. It is something we all stand in need of, and hence it is something we must be ready to extend to others. The Lord said, 'Blessed are the merciful; they will obtain mercy,' (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy)

Fr. Michael Carey

### Mass intentions for Next Week

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Dec members of Geraghty & McCreavy Famillies	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Patricia Hennelly
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Mary Morrissey	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Desmond Burrows
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Special Intention	<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Pat Dunne
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Margaret Cluskey	<b>Wed</b> 8.00am William & Bridget Donnelly
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Imelda O'Neill	<b>Wed</b> 6.30pm Kathleen & Ernest McMahon
<b>Thurs</b> 8.30am Vera Fitzpatrick	<b>Thurs</b> 11.00am Dec members of Leavey Family
<b>Thurs</b> 11.00am Teri Somers	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Mary O'Connor
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Michael Coleman	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm John & Anne Greene

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon . Mon 9.20am**  
Each Sunday during Lent the Liturgy group are creating a spiritual display in front of the altar to remind us of the Corporal Works of Mercy advocated by Christ in the Gospel. Today's theme for the fifth Sunday in Lent is 'Comfort the sick'.



### FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Christianity is not simply a matter of a relationship between the individual and God. It is equally concerned with the relationship between people. It has social consequences. This aspect goes back to the days of Moses and the covenant on Mount Sinai. It was because they were sharers in the same covenant with the Lord rather than for any ties of family or race that the children of Israel had an obligation to look after one another as well as an obligation to God. (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 Monday 14th March 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.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Oona McCarron**                      **Mother of Fr Peter McCarron**  
**Peter McQuillan**                **Malahide Road**  
**Eileen Bird**                        **Beallinstown Swords**



**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**



The  
Season  
of  
Lent



5th Sunday of Lent

### **Kindness and Mercy**

*"Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless"*

**Newsletter Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

As we go on in life we tend to set a higher value on the virtue of kindness – plain, ordinary, everyday kindness. When we look back on our lives we remember with regret acts of unkindness. But we recall fondly times when we acted kindly. Kindness is essential to true justice. Jesus was especially kind to individuals whom he was called to judge. The classic example is the woman caught in adultery.

The story warns us against being too quick to take the high moral ground. Which of us is without sin? We must learn from the example of Jesus. He condemned the woman's sin, but refused to condemn her. It is not that sin did not matter to him. It did. But he distinguished between the sin and the sinner. He condemned the sin but pardoned the sinner.

And his over-riding motive in all of this was compassion. It wasn't a question of being liberal (anything goes), but of being compassionate. The holier a person is, the less he/she is inclined to judge others. In every human being there is a dimension which escapes the powers of judgement of any other human being.

Jesus refused to condemn her. But he did say to her, 'Go and sin no more.' In other words, he did not deny her sin. He got her to own it and take responsibility for it. It is much easier to deny it, to excuse or blame it on others. When one faces it and deals with it, there is no more blame, or regret, or remorse, or despair.

The compassion and forgiveness of Jesus give life. The woman went away free – free to change her behaviour, and to regain her self-respect. Jesus reminds us that people are capable of changing if given the chance.

The mission of the Church is to be a place of forgiveness so that those who fail (all of us in different ways and degrees) may experience the love and compassion of the One who refused to condemn. The Church ought to be a community of grace, a community free from legalism, a community which will not condemn but which will love, a community which is more concerned about mercy than justice.

### *A Mother's plea for Mercy*

One day a mother came to plead with Napoleon for her son's life. The young man had committed a serious offence. The law was clear. Justice demanded his death. The emperor was determined to ensure that justice would be done. But the mother insisted, 'Your Excellency, I have come to ask for mercy not for justice.'

'But he does not deserve mercy,' Napoleon answered.  
'Your Excellency,' said the mother, 'it would not be mercy if he deserved it.' 'So be it,' said Napoleon. 'I will have mercy on him.' And he set her son free.



## **ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN**

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

### **Year of Mercy**

The eighth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘Misericordiae Vultus’ continues. Jesus, seeing the crowds of people who followed him, realised that they were tired and exhausted, lost and without a guide, and he felt deep compassion for them (cf. Mt 9:36). On the basis of this compassionate love he healed the sick who were presented to him (cf. Mt 14:14), and with just a few loaves of bread and fish he satisfied the enormous crowd (cf. Mt 15:37). What moved Jesus in all of these situations was nothing other than mercy, with which he read the hearts of those he encountered and responded to their deepest need. When he came upon the widow of Nain taking her son out for burial, he felt great compassion for the immense suffering of this grieving mother, and he gave back her son by raising him from the dead (cf. Lk 7:15). After freeing the demoniac in the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus entrusted him with this mission: “Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you” (Mk 5:19). The calling of Matthew is also presented within the context of mercy. Passing by the tax collector’s booth, Jesus looked intently at Matthew. It was a look full of mercy that forgave the sins of that man, a sinner and a tax collector, whom Jesus chose – against the hesitation of the disciples – to become one of the Twelve.



### **Easter Bouquet Cards**

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost €5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

### **Do This in Memory**

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass and the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

### **Easter Cards**

The Easter cards are being distributed – if people can help with the few that are remaining it would be greatly appreciated.

### **Holy Thursday**

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper is I believe a powerful Liturgy, in particular because of the Lord’s Mandate to Peter concerning the washing of feet. I would like to do this as part of the Liturgy. It is a liturgical action – *the feet are already clean!!* I invite you to consider volunteering, Please do not be afraid or shy! We need about 6 people. Please leave your name in the sacristy. Thank you

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

Harry Daniel O’Connor, Zach Michael Lyons Love, Aidan Paul Byrne, Sadie Elizabeth Dunne, Alana Ann Mary Earley, Kasey Leigh Clarke Graydon

### **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*)



### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not about a guilt-trip. Rather, it is about unburdening. The Lord invites us to receive from him ‘rest for our souls’ (Mt 11:29) so that he may set us free (Lk 4:18) that we may continue to seek to live ‘life to the full’ (Jn 10:10). Jesus is encountered in and through the Sacrament. The Lenten/Easter Reconciliation service takes place in **St. St. Colmcille’s Swords on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm** and in **St. Finian’s River Valley on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm.**

### **The Bible’s Most Important People**

**Abraham** – The new name for Abram, whom God called out of Ur of the Chaldees and into the promised land. This new name was a symbol of the covenant between God and Abraham. The Lord promised to build a nation through Abraham and his wife, Sarai (whom he renamed Sarah), though she was too old to have children. God refused to accept Ishmael, son of Abraham and Sarah’s maid, Hagar, as the child of promise. In time, God gave Sarah and Abraham, a son, Isaac, who would found the nation God promised.

### **St. Patrick’s Day-Mass Times**

**St. Colmcille’s:** Vigil 6.30pm. Day Mass; 8.30am & 11.00am (no evening Mass)

**Our Lady of the Visitation-Drynam:** Day Mass 9.20am

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

The PPC will meet this Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

### **Liturgy Group**

This group will meet on Tues 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road

**Men’s Retreat** will take place in Emmaus Retreat Centre on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00am - 6.00pm. Please contact Paddy Gerrard at 8401466 /0874170075