

the world. A mark of mercy, of caring and of responding to the needs and plight of others. It reminds us of people who cannot easily wash away the ashes or the weight of their cross. This is not always easy, and our own concerns are real. Think of them though, just for a moment, imagine nobody responding to our needs. Even if the response is inadequate it is better than no response for it means someone has noticed and tried to come to our assistance. The three sides of the Trócaire Box tell a story. The fourth side? That's down to us. Response!

*Fr. Michael Carey*

**Intentions for Next Week**

**Mon** 8.00am Special Intention

**Mon** 10.00am Special Intention

**Tues** 8.00am Margaret O'Brien

**Tues** 10.00am Margaret Brady

**Wed** 8.00am Ben Glynn

**Wed** 10.00am In Honour of St Joseph

**Thurs** 8.00am Robert Donovan

**Thurs** 10.00am Tom Webster

**Fri** 8.00am James Sheahan

**Fri** 10.00am Peggy Garrigan

**Sat** 6.30pm Teresa McEntagart

**Sun** 8.30am Frank Towley MM

**Sun** 11.15am Walter Higgins

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

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

Holywell ETNS First Communion children will have their First Confessions on Tuesday evening 12h March at 7:30 in Drynam. The Archbishop is conducting an online questionnaire at <https://www.dublindiocese.ie/survey-on-sacraments>. All parishioners are invited to respond.

*RECENTLY DECEASED*

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

Jack Thompson

Broadmeadow

**Stations of Cross**

For the Season of Lent, I have placed prayers and reflections under each of the Stations in the Church. They will remain for Lent and will I hope help if you are not sure what to pray when at each station. I have put them there to encourage the praying of the stations during Lent and parents will I trust find them helpful if they want to teach their children with them. *If you are very busy you could 'space out' the stations and pray them over the course of a week*



**1st Sunday of Lent**

'To repent' means basically to change one's mind or attitude. For those who have not done so this could mean to take on board the God-dimension to life, while for those who already have, it might mean to do so at a deeper level. To accept God into one's plan for life will certainly mean a change of some sort. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

**TROCAIRE**

*"When he calls on me, I will answer him"*

Newsletter Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019



Lent is synonymous with Trocaire or is it the other way around! The Trociare boxes are in the packets at the back of the Church along with included information. **Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.**

Wednesday's Ashes are a memory now! Just a few days after being reminded that we are dust and unto dust we shall return or that we should turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel, nobody would know that our foreheads bore the mark of the ash and the sign of the Cross. Still though, we know it and somewhere in the depths of our Souls, we know that mark makes all the difference. It reassures us that the road we travel has been travelled before and the steps we take are taken on a well-trodden path. We strive to be faithful to the path and still, somehow, we wander and stray a little, border on being lost but remain confident that we are searched for and found.

"Be with me, O Lord, in my distress" is our response to the psalm today. I heard a man speaking about reading God's word at Mass and saying that the "reader" or "Minister of the word", should not say "Response" by way of leading people into saying the response. He said the response should flow from what has been heard. Imagine the ball sailing over the bar in the dying seconds of extra time in an All Ireland Final with the sides level, the point takes your county across the line and to All-Ireland Glory. Could you imagine someone having to shout "RESPONSE" to that?? The response is just that, response to something witnessed – something real – something that speaks to the spirit and demands an answer.

Today's response comes to lines like: "My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust" and "When he calls I shall answer, 'I am with you'". It is rooted in the psalmist's call for help and in a reminder to God that He has made a commitment to be with people in their time of need and crisis.

The Trócaire Lenten Campaign this year focuses on land-rights. The four-sided "Trócaire Box" has stories to tell. One about families forced from their homes, another about the absence of rights for women in terms of inheritance and the third about the grabbing greed of big businesses who take over people's land for their own profit and gain. The leaflet in the Trócaire Pack gives further detail but there is a fourth side to the Trócaire Box and it bears that very name "Trócaire" – mercy. That word tells a story too. It's a story called "Response".

To be merciful means to respond in a way that is meaningful, helpful and life-giving. It doesn't always mean we have all the answers or that the situation is now restored to perfect order. It does mean, however, that we want things to be better for people and that their plight is our concern. It asks of us that we feel again the mark of the Ashes and the sign of the Cross and that the "Ash Wednesday" man, woman and child puts a mark on

## 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*



### A welcome new Initiative

For this Lenten season, the parish Liturgy Team have come up with something new. For each of the Wednesday's of Lent a different 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. To start the ball rolling, the Members of the Parish Liturgy Team will pray the Stations on **WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm** in St. Colmcille's. Please do come along and attend

### Sacrament of Confirmation – Scoill an Duinnigh

Congratulations to the boys and girls from Scoill an Duinnigh who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Noirin Ni Laighin (Principal) and Niamh Cooke and Ciaran O Fainnin (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The school choir was lovely. I thank also Mr. Pol O Cathasaigh, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

### World Day of Prayer 2019

This was hosted in our Parish last Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March and there was a great turn out. I'd like to thank the Organisers, Sr. Mary McLoughney and Angela Rainey and their team who did an excellent job. Also a big thank you to Morgan Crowley and the Choir whose singing enhanced the Liturgy. I'm sure all who attended were delighted to have done so – roll on four years' time when we host it again!

### St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for St. Colmcille's Swords, VdP, will be taken up **THIS** weekend at all Masses

### God's Housekeepers

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** after the 10.00am Mass. Can cleaning group 1 for this Friday please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

### St Patrick's Day Parade

The Swords St Patrick's Day parade will take place on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 11.00am. *PARADE ROUTE*, Colaiste Coilm, Main Street, North Street

#### TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

**Access onto Chapel Lane (at Main Street junction) will be affected (due to the presence of the review stand) from 6.00 p.m. approx on Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup> until 6.00 p.m. approx on Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>. The route of the parade will be affected as follows: Main St - closed 6:00am until 3.00pm approx Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>**



### 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 would like to remind you that there will not be a meeting next Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. We will resume again on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2.30pm in the Parochial House. You are welcome to come along on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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

Rejoice and be Glad!



### Rivervalley Bible Course

Bible study course resumes on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am in St Finian's Rivervalley Oratory with the study of St Luke's Gospel. This is the ideal course to meet like-minded parishioners and to examine your faith and reliance on the Bible. The course will again run for six weeks each Friday morning; it is free and includes tea and coffee afterwards! Attendance at the previous course is not required. All are welcome!

### The Way Forward Pro Life and Pro Family Event

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm in Grand Hotel Malahide **Hosted by:** Fingal for Life and The Iona Institute **David Quinn** from the Iona Institute will speak on the Pro Life Movement in Ireland and The Way Forward. **Maria Steen** from the Iona Institute will discuss the proposed changes in the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme in schools, as parents are concerned about this very liberal and possibly compulsory programme.

### Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at - The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." Date of next meeting: Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

### Brackenstown Pilgrimage to the Holy Land- 13th - 21st September 2019

An information evening will take place in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre, Brackenstown at 8.00pm to go through travel details and the programme. *All welcome*

**Anam Cara North Dublin**, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel. This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.