

## Advent Wreath

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week

2<sup>nd</sup> CANDLE – (purple) THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION – God kept his promise of a Saviour who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD!

“As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’ (Luke 3:4-6)



## Mass Intentions this Weekend - Intentions for 6.30pm Vigil Mass will be prayed for at 11.15am Mass & through the Parish webcam

**Sat 6.30pm** Michael & Peggy Hiney

**Sun 8.30am** Kathleen Dunleavy

**Sun 11.15am** Dominic King

Noel Phelan (1st An)



## Mass intentions for Next Week

**Mon** 10.00am Health Intention

**Mon** 10.00am Salvadore Saputo

**Mon** 6.30pm Protection of Mother & unborn child

**Tues** 10.00am Priests of the Parish

**Tues** 10.00am Dec members of O'Reilly & Kealy Family

**Wed** 10.00am James Enright

**Sat** 6.30pm Patrick Barry Jnr

**Wed** 10.00am Marie Farrell

**Thurs** 10.00am Darren Kavanagh

**Sun** 8.30am Sr Patrick Leamy

**Thurs** 10.00am Noreen O'Connor

**Sun** 11.15am Fr Toy Drummey

**Fri** 10.00am James Fagan

**Fri** 10.00am Thomas Donovan

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

Welcome back to the celebration of Mass in person to those who can make it today.

From next Sunday, 13th December, Masses in Drynam will be at 10:00 and 11:30 for the Irish Mass. Mass on Tuesday 8th December will be at 9:20AM.



## 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections

At every Mass, weekday and weekend there will be collection boxes situated around the Church. If you cannot make the Sunday Mass, but are able to go to the weekday Mass, you can make your weekly contribution during the weekday Mass. Thank You. *One contribution per week and not one every day!!!*

**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: Website: www.swords-parish.com Email:**

**stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com**

**Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts

*“The Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart”*



## Newsletter Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020



Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist was a prophet – a chosen messenger whose role in life was to prepare the way for God’s entry among his people. He came out of the desert and captured

the imagination of the people who flocked to hear him, by announcing that the long awaited day of salvation was about to dawn on them. His words stung like the lash of a whip as he reprimanded his listeners for their loose lifestyles which were making them careless and apathetic. The Baptist’s message was simple: ‘Do penance, reform your lives by prayer and fasting for the kingdom of God is at hand’. The voice of John the Baptist speaks to us across the ages and urges us ***to prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts.***



Advent is an invitation to conversion and John the Baptist gives us some down-to-earth advice on how to change our lives for the better. He talks about filling in the valleys of prejudice, levelling down the mountains of pride and straightening out the crooked paths of injustice. ***Today we ask ourselves what in our lives needs a complete turning around to allow God to come close to us.*** There are dark corners of ourselves which we do not want disturbed even though we are aware that they prevent God from entering our innermost being. This Advent time of prayer and penance brings home to us the need to make a fresh start of only to prevent spiritual drift. Preparing a way for God in our hearts is a time-consuming and costly business. It demands listening to what God is saying to us and, if necessary, acting upon it by making changes in our behaviour. Welcoming God involves removing all blockages and obstacles which prevent him from coming close. Preparing a way for the Lord may mean walking a new path. Christ cannot save us without our co-operation. Like a true gentleman he does not force entry into our lives but waits to be invited (Rev 3:20)



The voice of John the Baptist reminds us that we have the important task of announcing Christ to others. Our every-day life is a message telling everyone through acts of kindness, honesty and faithfulness that Christ is right here with us. We may be the only book about Christ which many people will ever read. His gospel of love is the answer to the problems of our troubled world. John the Baptist invites us to turn this Advent season into a real spiritual homecoming by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Saviour into our lives. (Source: Desmond Knowles – *Voicing a thought on Sunday*)

**Fr. Michael Carey**

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us* **Pope Francis**



### First Holy Communions

Over the next fortnight the Parish will celebrate the First Holy Communions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> classes, oops! They are now in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. We look forward to this celebration – it is now the third attempt. Congratulations to the boys and girls of St. Colmcille's GNS, St. Colmcille's BNS and Scoil and Duinninigh and to their parents and the class teachers.

### Vigil Masses

December will be a very busy month, what with the celebration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communions and the celebration of the back log of 'Baptisms'. Between myself and Fr. John there will be two Baptism celebrations each Saturday for the next 3 weeks. I sincerely thank the Baptism Team Members for making themselves available for these ceremonies. To that end I have decided to postpone the return of the Saturday evening Vigil Mass until 9<sup>th</sup> January

### Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 8<sup>th</sup> December

We celebrate Mary, who, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

Mass times are as follows:

**St. Colmcille's:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am (Note: no 6.30pm Vigil and no 8.00am Mass)

**Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 9.20am

### Carol Service – online only

The annual Carol Service takes place in St. Colmcille's Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. This will be a **webcam only** event BUT Morgan has put a lot of work into it and it will be beautiful

### RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Peter McKenna

Glasnevin

Edward Buckley

Artane

Bernadete Delargey

Main Street



**Diary 2021** The diary for the booking of Mass intentions for 2021 is now open. Please note that during this time of Covid, the Sacristy will be open for about 15mins after the 10am morning Mass

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul – next Sunday

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place next weekend **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. It will be the second collection replacing Share.

We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year.

You can also make a donation in the following ways:

- Go to [svp.ie/donate](http://svp.ie/donate)
- Call 0818 176 176
- Blue Envelopes at the back of the Church – these can be left in the Sacristy to be collected by the Swords VdP

*Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)*

### JESSE TREE-week 2

#### **Star of David**

Jesus was born into the house of David, the great king of Israel. This symbol also reminds us of the star the magi followed to find the baby Jesus

#### **Jacobs Ladder**

Jacob had a dream of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Jesus opened the gates of heaven kingdom for all of us

#### **David's Crown**

David was King of Israel for many years, and it was promised that the Messiah would come from the house of David. Because Joseph became Mary's husband. Jesus was born into the house of David



### Bethany Bereavement Support Group

The Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group extend our deepest sympathy to ALL bereaved people, especially those who have suffered bereavement during the Covid pandemic. If you would like to talk to a member please phone Sr. Mary - 8404323 from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 6-9.30pm or you can email the parish office: [stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmcilleschurch@gmail.com). <https://www.bethany.ie>

### Newsletters and Missalettes

This is just a reminder. The Newsletters and Missalettes are left out for the weekend Masses. Please take them **BUT** bring them home with you. In these Covid times leaflets should not be picked up, read and put back again. Please, please take home with you.

### Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cost €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.