

- Meg from the USA who brought in the light of the Millennium with her trumpet playing, both at midnight and after the Consecration the following morning.
- All of our members who have gone to their eternal reward, who have been such a part of our choir community – a special mention of Harry who in latter years did trojan work on our administrative side. May they all rest in peace.

I need to say thank you to a number of people: to my sister Loreto who shared the work with me for a long number of years; to all of the priests down through the years with whom I worked, with a special mention of Fr. Sean O'Neill who trained our congregation to sing; to retired choir members, some of whom join us every now and then; to my four children who over the years played the organ for me while I conducted, with special mention of my two daughters who filled in whenever I was away and then lastly to our faithful choir members. They are a great group. Even if nobody ever heard them sing, there is a real pleasure in being part of a group singing in harmony. Understandably, the joy it brings to other people adds yet another dimension. One time after midnight mass somebody told me that the singing "made a forty-year-old man cry". Another man thanked us for the fact that his adult children went to mass - they used live in Swords and made him drive out to mass on Christmas Eve because they remembered the choir from their childhood. Then, of course, it is St. Augustine who is supposed to have said, "to sing is to pray twice". After fifty plus years, when people talk to me of service, I think what service? I was glad to contribute to music in the parish community. I looked on it as an honour and a blessing.

Anne McDonagh

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am William Hamilton

Mon 10.00am Millie Davies & son Ronald

Tues 8.00am Samuel Joseph O'Connor

Tues 10.00am Farrell/Connor Families

Wed 8.00am Seamus Doherty

Wed 10.00 Eileen & Michael Gilloughley

Thurs 8.00am Get Well Intention

Thurs 10.00am Patricia Fitzpatrick

Fri 8.00am Dec members of Jennings Family

Fri 10.00am Patrick & Kathleen Deegan

Sat 6.30pm Patrick & Mary Kate Gallagher

Sun 8.30am Elizabeth Weston

Sun 11.00am Nancy Lawless

Sun 6.30pm John Taylor

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

The Fire Officer has granted permission to extend use of the church until Sunday 23rd July.

We are making alternative arrangements for Sunday morning Masses and will have further information in the announcements today.



Charities Act

To comply with the Charities Act we are obliged to send a communication to everyone who has made a contribution to the Parish for Christmas/Easter Dues and the Family Offering. This we are very happy to do. In order to minimise postage costs, I'd be much obliged if parishioners could help drop the letters in people's post boxes. The letters are in the sacristy as opposed to the back of the Church as they are individually addressed. Thanking you in anticipation

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

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

History of St. Colmcille's Church Choir over 50 years

"The Lord is the strength of his people"

Newsletter Sunday 25th June 2017

My first memory of the choir in St. Colmcille's Church was, as a child, going down to sing at Benediction and the organ being played by Miss Bell, the teacher of First Class in Swords Girls' Infant School. Miss Bell directed the adult choir for a long time. Then Miss O'Connor, who taught us all in Infants, played the organ for a number of years. When I was in College and a need arose, I began to fill the gap. At the time a number of the choir members were friends of my parents, a daunting prospect in those days for a young person who was attempting to direct a choir.

Looking back over more than fifty years of my time playing the organ and directing the choir, with all the changes that took place over the years I recognise that the history of the choir is really a reflection of life. There have been many highlights and many times when we struggled for numbers, but happily things have never been better than they are now with choir members even singing the Responsorial Psalm from the altar each Sunday at mass – something that doesn't happen in many parishes. There were seven Parish Priests in Swords during my time looking after the music: Canon Kelly, Fr. Daniel Barrett, Fr. James Alston, Fr. O'Reilly, Fr. Sean O'Neill, Fr. Cyril Mangan and Fr. Michael Carey.

Over the years, we can look back fondly on:

- Arriving in The Phoenix Park in the darkness to sing for the Pope, walking up that hill in the mist of the dawn, seeing the aircraft arriving and then the culmination of it all when Pope John Paul II joined with us to sing *Credo in Unum Deum* (in his out of key voice, but wonderful nonetheless)
- All the years of Carol Service singing with the Church of Ireland community
- Singing Sunday Mass on RTE television
- The Carol Services here in the Church each year – local people say that the Christmas season and preparations don't start for them until they attend the Carol Service!
- All of the soloists who graciously gave of their time to sing solo at our Carol Services over the years: Hugh, Cathy, Emmanuel, Fr. Sean O'Neill, Brian and of course our own Helen.
- Our relationship with the girls from the local primary school who always sang as part of the Carol Service. Children's voices are a special element in Christmas singing.
- The wonderful Liturgies at Christmas-time and at Easter and on other occasions too.
- Winning the Lombard Murphy Cup at Feis Ceoil a number of times.
- Singing for the Discalced Carmelites, an enclosed order of nuns in Drumcondra who said they thought they were in Heaven, with the glory of the singing!



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season



Anne McDonagh

Anne retires today after 52 years at the helm of the choir. She has given the choir and the parish great service. Her ministry was demanding, but she brought to it a wonderful talent and it took a lot of her own time during these years but she loved it! For the wonderful contribution that she has made to the choir, the parish and the parish liturgies in all this time I say 'Thank You'.

On behalf of the Parish and myself I wish you a happy retirement. You now have more time to spend with your beautiful grandchildren and your golf – I am not sure of the order of preference!

Do This in Memory – Corpus Christi

Last Saturday evening was a beautiful evening and we rounded off the 'Do This in Memory' Programme for 2016-17 with a lovely Corpus Christi Procession. There were about 30 boys and girls wearing again their First Holy Communion outfits and dresses and we had a lovely little procession after the Mass. Thank you to Sr. Mary and Sr. Margaret who put a huge amount of work in this Mass and to the 4 girls who sang beautifully. After the Mass there was a lovely glass of lemonade and bickies provided by Betty McDonald and Mary Morgan. All in all a lovely occasion and hopefully a happy memory for the children and their parents

Holy Water

There is holy water in the Sacristy - if you bring a plastic bottle you can collect some in advance of Cemetery Sunday

Cemetery Sunday – Collection

As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

St. Vincent de Paul – Annual Clothing Appeal

The Appeal is for clean good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be distributed this weekend 24th/25st June in the porches of both our churches. They will be collected the following weekend 1st/2nd July. There will be no Sunday evening collection

All Ireland Rally for life Parnell Square 1st July 2017

A Swords Pro-Life group has been set up between the three parishes in Swords. If you are interested in joining please contact : Mary Morgan 087 2711376 or Karl 089 2241073 **2 weeks to go 1.07.17**



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. The Group meet on the last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 26th June For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. PLEASE NOTE that the meetings on the second Mondays of the month, for June, July and August, are suspended. We hope this change will be temporary .

Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul Thursday 29th June

Peter was a humble fisherman, eventually chosen as the leader of the Twelve, the 'rock' on which the Church was built. Paul, a tentmaker from Tarsus, a Pharisee and a Roman citizen was a persecutor of the first Christians, but was converted by the Lord on his way to Damascus. He became the Apostle of the Gentiles. But they were chosen to become the pillars of our faith, which they sealed with their martyrdom in Rome.

The Church is like the human person: we are both body and spirit at the one time. The body of Christ – which is what we are – has both a bodily reality (membership, structure and sacraments) and a spiritual reality (the life of faith and prayer, the indwelling Spirit). The institutional and the prophetic dimensions of Church are sometimes in tension and that is really normal. To be part of the living body of Christ is to hear again Jesus' question, who do you say I am? As St Paul reminds us, no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3). Christ, Son of the living God, you call us to confess your name and to acknowledge you as Lord. Help us to live our faith and find new words for what we believe so that we may proclaim your Gospel to our contemporaries in words they can understand

Peter's Pence

Next weekend Sat/Sun 1st/2nd July, is the one nearest the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul. To that end the 2nd Collection (Share) is replaced by the 'Peter's Pence' collection this collection is for the Pope and Pontifical Charities.

Cemetery Sunday – This Sunday 25th June at 4.00pm

This Mass (with the participation of the Choir) will take place in the Church, followed by Blessing of the Cemetery.

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Pippa Willow Chummun, Lucy Brooke O'Donoghue, Louis James King, Lauren Ann Daly, Charles Boylan



World Meeting of Families Volunteer Programme

WMOF 2018 are now recruiting volunteers for a wide range of roles. We need the support of thousands of volunteers, as individuals or groups to assist in organising and running this exciting series of events. For more information visit the website www.worldmeeting2018.ie/volunteer. Leaflets are at the back of the Church



St Vincent De Paul School uniform Appeal.

The St Vincent De Paul shop in Swords would greatly appreciate new/used wearable school uniforms/ shirts, tracksuits, jumpers, trousers, shoes, bags etc from both primary and secondary schools. Please donate items to our shop at 1 Castle Shopping Centre Swords Shop open Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm Uniform sale will take place in July