

those run by 'Crosscare' or if you have the time, by helping with Meals on Wheels or the St. Vincent de Paul. Moreover, unlike Christians in the ancient and medieval world (when this list of corporal works of mercy was first compiled), we can take the time to educate ourselves about the problem of hunger in the world, and we can use our voices and our votes to petition and pressure our politicians to make the fight against world hunger a higher priority for our government.

Giving drink to the thirsty can be accomplished, by supporting clean water policies to ensure that there will be clean water for future generations to drink. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ do not have access to clean water and suffer from the lack of this basic necessity. We should support the efforts of those working towards greater accessibility of this essential resource. We take it for granted that we have access to clean water – you could donate to 'Trocaire' or some other charity to help build wells for water for those in need. Make an effort not to waste water. Remembering to turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or washing dishes can help, especially in regions suffering from drought.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention

Mon 10.00am Johnny Melia

Tues 8.00am Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien

Tues 10.00am Special Intention

Wed 8.00am Sheila Fitzsimons

Wed 10.00am Mary Flynn

Thurs 8.00am Patricia Egan

Thurs 10.00am Kathleen Doyle

Fri 8.00am Anne & Ultan McCabe

Fri 10.00am Special Intention

Sat 10.00am Paddy & Rita Ellis

William Watson

Sat 6.30pm Patrick & Mary Kate Gallagher

Sun 8.30am Bridie, Paddy & Pat Whelan

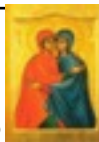
Sun 11.00am Alan Caul & Olive Bolger

Sun 6.30pm Thomas, Anne & James McKenna

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

Today after 12:00 Mass Renata continues with the program for a group of children with special needs. They will meet in the Hall for a period of prayer and activities to promote understanding of their Catholic faith. The children enjoy this time and ensure they are included in the life of the Church.



Repentance alone is not enough

Repentance of itself is not enough – grace must be available. But if grace is offered and not accepted, then nothing comes of either. There is no point in putting up a sail if there is no wind. There is no point in planting a seed if the ground is frozen. There is no point in pruning a tree if spring does not come. It is not enough to cut into people's hearts in order to save them – they must be touched by grace. Lord, touch our hearts with your grace, so that we may produce the fruits of repentance. (Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

Brackenstown Parish Retreat

Brackenstown Parish Retreat led by the Capuchin Retreat Team will take place from 21st - 26th February, daily at 7.30am, 10.00am, 12 noon & 7.30pm in St Cronan's Church. Thursday 25th 1.15pm, Anointing of the Sick, Friday 26th, 7.30pm Reconciliation Service
All are welcome

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



1st Sunday of Lent

The Corporal Works of Mercy

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

Newsletter Sunday 14th February 2016

As we begin the Season of Lent, I want to highlight the 14 works of Mercy that

Avril O'Reilly has beautifully designed which frames the door of

St. Colmcille's Church. The next two newsletters will focus on the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy.

Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say that there are two kinds of "Real Presence" of our Lord in this world: the Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, where He fills us with His light, His life, and His love, and our Lord's real presence in the poor, both in those materially poor and those spiritually poor, where He is waiting for us to give Him back His light, His life, and His love. Living on the Bread of Life, we *receive* our Saviour's merciful love; sharing our bread with those who hunger physically and spiritually, we *return* that love back to Him, giving His compassionate Heart solace and joy.

Mother Teresa dedicated her life to picking up the poor and the suffering from the streets of Calcutta and other major cities in India and providing for them the most basic necessities: food, shelter, a blanket, and a bit of human warmth and kindness. Many were desperately sick with incurable illnesses, but it made no difference to Mother Teresa and her Sisters of Charity. They were committed to loving the poor as "Jesus in disguise," so to speak. The sisters saw the Lord as truly present in all who suffer.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbours in their bodily needs", and they respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

- (1) Feed the hungry. (2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked. (4) Shelter the homeless. (5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick. (7) Bury the dead.

Perhaps your first reaction upon reading this traditional list might be, "This list is a bit out of date. After all, when do we ever have the opportunity in the modern world to 'give drink to the thirsty' or to 'clothe the naked'?" And who in their right mind would fail to bury their loved ones these days!"

Don't be too hasty, however, in dismissing the usefulness of this old list of the corporal works of mercy. It may be more helpful than you think in challenging us to discern new ways that our merciful Saviour is calling us to follow Him.

Moreover, as we shall see, in the practice of each of the corporal works of mercy there is both a *personal* and a wider *social* dimension, and a true disciple of Jesus Christ will not want to neglect either one. Accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour includes rejecting everything incompatible with His reign of compassion and merciful love.

First and Second: Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty

On the surface at least, feeding the hungry seems fairly straightforward. We can help the hungry in simple ways: for example, by making donations to the local food bank, such as



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

What is Mercy?

Mercy is the quality of care for another, willingness to make an effort, even at great sacrifice, to ease another's pain, readiness to forgive, eagerness to help.

Year of Mercy

The sixth paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘*Misericordiae Vultus*’ continues as follows: **“Patient and merciful.”** These words often go together in the Old Testament to describe God's nature. His being merciful is concretely demonstrated in his many actions throughout the history of salvation where his goodness prevails over punishment and destruction. In a special way the Psalms bring to the fore the grandeur of his merciful action: “He forgives all your iniquity, he heals all your diseases, he redeems your life from the pit, he crowns you with steadfast love and mercy” (Ps 103:3-4). Here are some other expressions of the Psalmist: “He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds... The Lord lifts up the downtrodden, he casts the wicked to the ground” (Ps 147:3, 6). In short, the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which he reveals his love as of that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a “visceral” love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.

The Meaning of Lent

Our word “Lent” comes from an old English word *lencten*, meaning to lengthen or to grow longer. These days, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, each day there are two minutes more light in the morning and two minutes more light in the evening. So, “Lent” really means springtime. This tells us precisely what is supposed to happen in this springtime of the faith: new shoots, spring growth, signs of life and joy. So, whatever I undertake this Lent, may it lead to a new springtime of faith for me and my community. Lent is the Church's ‘holy spring’. Even though it is a time of self-denial, it is also a time of joy, because we are preparing for Easter. Lord, help us to let go of old habits of sin, and clothe us in newness of life, so that when Easter comes, we will feel young again in our discipleship.

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.

Happy St. Valentine's Day

Love is always patient and kind, it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. (1.Cor.13:4-7)



Trocaire

In Ireland, 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. Please take a box home - it can be quite amazing how much loose change can amount to.

Accord

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses **THIS weekend 14th/15th February**. The collection will replace the usual Share collection. ‘Marriage, the union of a man and a woman, is a unique sacrament in that its essence is not about a special additional blessing, marriage is about a human reality. It is about a human relationship which is so vital for the good of humanity that it is raised to the level of a sacrament. The human reality of marriage becomes a witness to the love Christ has for his Church and draws its strength from that love of Jesus Christ’ (Archbishop Diarmuid Martin – Accord letter)



The Bible's Most Important People

Aaron – Older brother of Moses, he was called into God's service when Moses baulked at confronting Pharaoh over his enslavement of the people of Israel. “I know that he can speak well,” God said of Aaron (Ex.4:14). He became God's spokesman in support of Moses' leadership for nearly 40 years. He was the first priest of Israel and headed a family line of priests that continued for more than a thousand years

First Penance

Congratulations to the boys in St. Colmcille's BNS 2nd Class who received their First Penance last Tuesday. They were excellently prepared by Ms. Conroy and Ms. Flood. Joining them were the boys and girls from Holy Well Educate Together. I thank Sr. Mary and her team for their excellent preparation.

1st Sunday of Lent

Reflection - ‘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)



We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Lauren Kate Holligan, Arthur Thomas Bradley, Conor Daniel McDermott, David Patrick Prior, Kate Anna Kelly, Amelia Lloyd Peate, Ayanna Chipo Mafavuneh, David Omari Mafuvuneh, David Mayowa Babatunde Akorded Kanyinsola Adeleye



Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 15th February at 8.00pm in the Parochial House