Let me turn again to Pope Francis' homily for Vocations Sunday 2014. "We are all called to adore Christ in our hearts (1 Pet 3.15) in order to allow ourselves to be touched by the impulse of grace contained in the seed of the word, which must grow in us and be transformed into concrete service to our neighbour. We need not be afraid: God follows the work of his hands with passion and skill in every phase of life. He never abandons us! He has the fulfilment of his plan for us at heart, and yet he wishes to achieve it with our consent and cooperation"

To conclude, Vocations Sunday has the simple purpose of clarifying to Church members a core element of our identity – and of making clear to others outside the Catholic Church and other faith communities that the most important choice in life is **to choose to be chosen**. How people respond to that message is a work of grace, not just human effort.

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

Mon 8.00 am Special intention
Mon 10.00am Anne Green
Tues 8.00 Intention of those celebrating Jubilees
Tues 10.00am Niamh Sheridan
Wed 8.00am Private intention
Wed 8.00am Margaret Doyle & Mary Heron
Thurs 8.00 am Gerard Travers
Thurs 10.00am Rabie Higgins
Fri 8.00am Joan McGee
Fri 10.00am Eileen Penston
Sat 10.00am **NO 10.00AM MASS**

Sat 6.3pm Pat Whelan
Frances O'Hare
Sun 8.30am Kathleen Larkin
Sun 10.00am Nora Hardy
Sun 11.30am Billy Harrington

Sun 7.30pm James & Mary Stafford

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

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

Today we welcome the children from Holywell Educate Together National School who make their First Holy Communion here in Drynam. We look forward to congratulating them and their families with a cup of tea after 12:00 Mass.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Nellie Clune **Pinegrove Park**

St Matthias - Replacement of Judas

After Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ, the apostles numbered eleven. When Jesus had been taken up from them, in preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit that he had promised them, Peter advised the brethren: "Judas, who was guide to those who took Jesus ... For he was numbered with us, and received his portion in this ministry ... For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation be made desolate, Let no one dwell therein', and, 'Let another take his office'... So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day he was taken up from us, must become with us a witness to his resurrection"(Acts 1:15-26). So, between the ascension of Christ and the day of Pentecost, the remaining apostles elected a twelfth apostle by casting lots, a traditional Israelite way to determine the Will of God. (see Prov16:33) The lot fell upon Matthias. **Feast Day 14th May**. He is said to have been martyred at Colchis on the Black Sea and his relics brought to Rome by St. Helena and now rest in St. Matthias' Abbey, a Benedictine Monastery in Trier, Germany.

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948
Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277
(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)
Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 *(Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)*
Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: **stcolmcilleschurch@eircom**

4th Sunday of Easter

Witness to the Truth

"The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia"

Newsletter Sunday 11th May 2014

This weekend the Church is celebrating Vocations Sunday. That title in itself may turn some of you off reading this newsletter. Also for some the word vocation is associated with the word 'crisis'. We need vocations, or we have no vocations etc. That I think is an unhelpful association. Exciting opportunity or challenge is a more useful word association. Top marks go in associating the word 'vocation' with 'discipleship', 'being called', 'being a follower of Jesus or of the Way' or similar associations.

Pope Francis says in a homily for this Sunday, "Let us dispose our hearts therefore to being 'good soil', by listening, receiving and living out the word, and thus bearing fruit....today too, Jesus lives and walks along the paths of ordinary life in order to draw near to everyone. I turn now to those who are well disposed to listen to the voice of Christ that rings out in the Church and to understand what their own vocation is"

Vocation Sunday occurs every year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, when the 'Good Shepherd' gospel is proclaimed. This happens, so to continue to raise awareness of the common vocation that we all share through baptism as expressed through ***witness, love and service***.

The Archbishop has said that: "being a Christian is not a spectator sport. We need to recall to all, that you cannot be simply a passive Christian, sitting on the sideline always watching from the grandstand when the occasion arises. Being a follower of Jesus requires firstly that we answer his call and change our way of living. 'Repent, and believe the Good News' (Mk.1:15) Vocations do not spring out of a void. They come from the depth of the faith of Christian communities. I ask all of you to renew your prayer for vocations. At the same time, I ask you to renew your own commitment to live out the message of Jesus and his love to the full. It is through encountering your witness that young people will be moved to ask about Jesus, to discern in their lives what his message means, and to open their hearts to that freedom and life which comes from him alone"

What is a vocation? The word vocation comes from the Latin word 'vocare'-meaning **to call**. A vocation then is a calling to a special way of living your life. We all have a vocation. By virtue of our baptism we are all called to place our trust in God and to use our gifts to **build up His Kingdom.** It is only really when we give ourselves and put our talents at the service of others that our hearts are truly alive and at peace. Nothing gives a person more confidence than knowing, that who they are and the gifts they possess are enough, are wanted, are needed. God wants to use the gifts we have and not someone else's to **build up His Kingdom.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia."

1st Holy Communion

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS who received their First Holy Communion yesterday. I thank all involved. Fr. Peter McCarron, chaplain to the Boys School and Sr. Mary, Parish Sister. Also Mr. Tom Shields, Chairperson of the Board of Management and the Principal and Teachers: Mr. Jim Bennett (Principal), Ms. Claire Sweeney, Ms. Denise Powell and Ms.Leanne Kilkenny (Class Teachers) and the Music teachers Ms. Blaithin White (Choir Director), Ms. Eimear Conroy and Mr. Diarmuid Connell and organist Mr. John Burke and the choir from 5th and 6th class. Again well done to all, it was a lovely occasion and congratulation to the boys' parents and families.

Vocations Sunday

Today is Vocations Sunday, with the special collection replacing Share. It is an ideal opportunity for us all to reflect on our Baptismal calling to live a life of grace and holiness and an opportunity to pray for and foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Dublin currently has nine students for the priesthood, six studying in Maynooth and two in the Irish College, Rome. Seamus McEntee is a deacon working in the Clondalkin Parishes and will be ordained by the Archbishop on June 3rd.

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: It is not a time to be lamenting; it is a time to be rising to the challenge with courage and Christian enthusiasm…. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

Graveyard

I am delighted to announce that the cremated ashes of loved ones can now be buried in the graveyard in their own special plot (Memorial Garden). Each internment will be accompanied by a suitably engraved tablet. For anyone who may be interested they can contact Colette in the Parish office for further information including cost.

The Bethany Bereavement Support Group will meet on Monday 12th May in the Parochial House, Seatown Road. from 7.30pm - 8.30pm All Fingal residents welcome

Prayer for the Guidance for young people

Lord, I know you love me and have great plan for me.
But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future.
Show me how to walk forward one day at a time.
May I hear your call to a life which will allow me to love as only I can,
and allow me to serve others with the special gifts you have given me. **Amen**

The Parish Pastoral Collection- next weekend

This fund will provide for the training and requirements of all the Pastoral Teams. It also provides for all art and décor, banners and flowers etc. There are other expenses throughout the year, such as the printing of booklets, prayers, candles, postage stamps etc. As a Parish we are very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed volunteers; they give their time freely for the benefit of us all. Please give what you can to this fund to help us ensure that they have the best possible support in their ministries. This collection takes place in St. Colmcille's only. The remaining collection dates for 2014 are: 30th/31st Aug and 29th/30th Nov. **Two collectors for each weekend Mass would be required. If you volunteer for this task please leave your name with Stephanie**

Fourth Sunday of Easter - *(Day of Prayer for Vocations)*

What is distinctive about our faith as Christians? We do not believe in a system of ideas or even in a higher ethics: we believe in a person, who gives life "a new horizon and a decisive direction" (Benedict XVI). John's Gospel makes this clear with its great I Am sentences, one of which we hear today: "I am the gate." Naturally, we think the gate to what? The gate to life to the full. The risk today is to set our expectations low, to be happy with less. But the Gospel calls not to be half alive, but to be fully alive. Let us enter by the gate himself, because the gate to life is always open.

Prayer - Often, loving Lord, we find ourselves astray and defenceless. Let us recognise your voice, calling us one by one as you call us to follow you.

Prayer for Vocations

God, Our Father,
Thank you for your son, Jesus our Good Shepherd, who leads us to fullness of life.
By our baptism, we are called by name to continue the mission of Jesus.
Give us the grace to listen with an open heart to the voice of Jesus and to respond generously with a joyful spirit.
Strengthen the men and women you called to serve through marriage, the single life, the diaconate, priesthood and consecrated life.
Guide all who are discerning their Christian vocation.
In gratitude we offer this prayer through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, united with you forever. Amen.

Golf Classic - St Colmcille's Parish

Our annual Golf Classic will take place in Forrest Little Golf Club on Friday 6th June to raise funds for the Parish Development Fund. The format is a 4-person Team event and the entry fee is €250 per team which includes a meal. If you think that this might be of interest to you, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you cannot submit a team, perhaps you would consider sponsoring a hole for €100 or even a prize for the event.If you wish to support this very worthy cause please contact John Campbell 0879079245, Bernie Campbell 0861519562 or Susan Kenna 0868152255.