

It is a daunting thought but with these demographic trends there is a clear sense that the strength of Catholicism and of belief in Jesus Christ in the Ireland of the tomorrow will depend to a great degree on us – clergy and laity – who form the Church in this large diocese today. We do not have the time to sit back in our old ways, or as cynical bystanders, or to dream of a time that will not return. We have to identify radical new ways of truly working together for mission and freeing priests to carry out their ministry effectively and with human fulfilment.

You are all aware of the strategies which we have been attempting to introduce in order to establish a strong pattern of working together. These involve not just forging closer collaboration within parish groupings, but also in strengthening the ministry of deacons, in ensuring the sustainable future of our pioneering initiative of parish pastoral workers and in launching a new initiative of catechetical activity in parishes. This cooperation must be widely extended to involving lay people – especially women – in a real way in having responsibility within parish life.

It is hard to say how successful we have been. Progress has been slow but I feel strongly that despite everything we have parishes today which have never been so vibrant at any other time in their history. Our parishes have changed. The priests, diocesan and religious, who work in our parishes deserve unreserved gratitude for this.” **Fr. Michael Carey**

#### Mass intentions for Next Week

**Mon** 10.00am Joseph & Kathleen Coleman

**Tues** 8.00am Special Intention

**Tues** 10.00am Mary Daly

**Wed** 8.00am Ita Mongey

**Wed** 10.00 Bernadette McGonagle

**Thurs** 8.00am Venerable Edel Quinn

**Fri** 8.00am Altar list of the Dead

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**Sat** 10.00am Dec members of McGreevy Family

**Sat** 6.30am Marie Corby

**Sun** 8.30am Ann Yorke

**Sun** 11.00am Paddy Mahon

**Sun** 6.30pm Paddy Ivors

#### 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**

A Fundraising Concert in aid of the Church Building Fund will take place on Friday 19 May 8PM in the RIASC Centre. Our Lady of Victories Gospel Choir, Ballymun, and supporting acts will perform. Tickets €10 from the parish office, from the RIASC centre or after Masses in Drynam Church from today.



#### Third Sunday of Easter

We come to Easter faith by acknowledging the hungers of the heart (“our own hope had been”), by searching the scriptures (“our hearts burning within us”), by holding on to the story of the first disciples and witness of the women, by the Eucharist (“the breaking of the bread”) and by sharing our faith (“they told their story”). Is there more? As the story starts, he stops them. Towards the end of the story, they stop him from walking out of their lives, perhaps for ever. The moment of desire leads to the moment of recognition and a life changing encounter.

**Prayer** - Open our ears, O Lord, to the words of Scripture that our hearts may burn within us. Open our eyes that we may recognise you in the breaking of the bread. Open our hearts to share with others the faith we have received that “we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Rm 1:12). (Source: *St. Paul’s Missal*)

**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**

3rd Sunday of Easter

### **Christ – the anointed one**

*“Cry out with joy to God, all the earth...O render him glorious praise, alleluia”*

Newsletter, Sunday 30th April 2017

On Holy Thursday morning last the Archbishop celebrated ‘The Chrism Mass’. The focus of this Mass is on our sharing in the mission of Jesus Christ. The title *Christ* comes from the Greek word for *messiah*, which means ‘anointed one’. During his homily the Archbishop said the following:

“In preparing my thoughts for this Chrism Mass this morning, I came across a lecture given in 1995 by the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, reflecting on the challenges of priestly spirituality in a situation marked by a conspicuous fall in the number of priests. Some of you may say that an article written over twenty years ago by a speculative academic theologian will hardly be relevant to the changed situation in which priests find themselves today and will hardly be relevant to the specific situation in Ireland today.

Let me read a somewhat lengthy section of the lecture so that you can make your own judgement. Ratzinger spoke of: “the difficult problem of the interior unity of life that the priest has to deal with when he is faced with a great number of different tasks; it is a problem which, with the continuing decline in the number of priests, threatens to become ever more the real crisis of priestly existence. A pastor today, who is in charge of three or four parishes, and always on the move from one place to the other, a situation that the missionaries know well, is becoming more the norm for the countries of ancient Christianity.

The priest, who must try to guarantee the celebration of the sacraments in the communities, is tormented by administrative duties, is challenged by the complexity of every kind of question, and is aware of the difficulties of persons that he does not even have the time to contact. Torn between the variety of activities, the priest becomes drained and finds fewer opportunities for the recollection, which would give him the new energy and inspiration, he loses the joy of his vocation”.

I think that many of us can indeed identify with the difficulty of establishing – to use the words of Cardinal Ratzinger – “an interior unity of life” in a time in which priests are “externally stretched and interiorly drained”.

Each year at this time I find myself struggling with the challenges regarding the appointment of priests within the parishes and other services of the diocese. The number of priests is going down and the number of vocations is declining. The challenges for priests are on the increase and the indications from the recent census are that the population of Ireland is increasing and that the largest concentration of increase will be along the east coast of Ireland and especially in the greater Dublin area and the larger towns within the Dublin diocese.



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread,  
alleluia*



### Ceremony of Light

This is part of the Confirmation Programme. It is developed around the Pascal Candle. When children are baptised the parents/godparents receive a light to their Baptismal Candle from the Pascal Candle. In this Ceremony, the parents hand the lighted candle lit from the Pascal Candle directly to their children themselves, symbolising that they, their parents have fulfilled their promise to bring their children up in the faith and will continue to fulfil it and that their children now make the step of confirming their faith for themselves. This ceremony was held for the girls of

St. Colmcille's GNS last Tuesday and for the boys of St. Colmcille's BNS next Tuesday. Thanks to the teachers for their excellent preparation of their pupils.

### Sacrament of Confirmation - GNS

Next Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at 11am. On behalf of the Parish I am delighted to welcome Bishop Ray Field who will administer the Sacrament. I wish the school well in all their preparation these coming days.

### Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses.

### Easter Dues

If you did not receive an Easter Card from the Parish containing a dues envelope, there are some available at the back of the Church. If you are not a regular contributor to the Parish and would like to do so, please leave your name and contact details with myself or in Sacristy or Parish Office.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

**Mary Farrell**

**Seatown Villas**



### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May

This day is a Bank holiday. Mass is at 10.00am only

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May

As the Parish is celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this day, there will only be an 8.00am Mass. There is no 10.00am Mass on this day

## Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3\* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

**Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is subject to availability.**

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)\* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)\* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)\* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18\* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.\* Entrance fees where applicable.

This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111** MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Jesus spoke a lot about fruit. A good tree produces good fruit; a bad tree, bad fruit. 'we don't pick grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles' (Matt 7:16). Jesus taught that his disciples would be recognised by their love for one another (Jn 13:35) and the fruit in their lives (Matt 7:20). Through baptism we were chosen and appointed to bear fruit that will last – but what kind of fruit? St. Paul describes the fruit of the Holy Spirit: 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control' (Gal 5:22). (source: *Walk with me – Easter 2017. Alive publishing*)

## The Bible's Most Important People

**Paul** – God's chosen apostle to the Gentiles. Paul zealously persecuted Christians until he became one himself as he travelled to Damascus and was confronted by Jesus. Scripture begins calling him Paul when he and Barnabas set out on the first of Paul's three missionary journeys. He communicated with the churches and individuals through his epistles, or letters. He wrote to the Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, and also wrote letters to Titus, Timothy, and Philemon. These form part of his contribution to the New Testament

## Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina will resume their meeting on Tuesday 2nd May and every Tuesday in the Parochial House, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm, for anyone interested in developing scripture in their lives **All welcome**

