

Most of us don't remember our baptism as we were baptised as babies. In baptism we are immersed into the very mystery of the Blessed Trinity: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are born again and become a new creation. We are partakers in the divine nature and receive the Holy Spirit. Leon Bloy said: 'The only real tragedy in life is not to be a saint.' Baptism gives us every grace so that we can be saints. Don't settle for a bland, boring or mediocre existence. The Spirit can do immeasurably more that we can ask or imagine as we live out the grace and blessing of our baptism and its promises. (source: *Walk with me – advent 2018. Alive publishing*) **Fr. Michael Carey**

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The Baptism of the Lord **Mission Accomplished**

“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”

Newsletter Sunday 13th January 2019



Intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Jackie Sheehy
Mon 10.00am Dec members of the Keavney Family **Sat** 6.30pm Pauline Temple
Tues 8.00am Special Intention
Tues 10.00am Special Intention
Wed 8.00am Special Intention **Sun** 8.30am Legion of Mary for Beatification
Wed 10.00am Dee McArtain of Alfie Lambe
Thurs 8.00am Jacqueline Sherry
Thurs 10.00am Peter Harford **Sun** 11.15am Judith Hamill & dec family
Fri 8.00am Eilish Keavney members
Fri 10.00am Patrick, Annie & Eileen O'Rourke Charles Murray (1st An)

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)

Thank you again to all parishioners for your support over the past year. Please let the Drynam Pastoral Team know if you wish to receive a refund of donations made towards a new church. The remaining funds will be used to continue with the gradual upgrading of the existing church.

Irish Catholic Paper: There is a real need for us as Catholics to feed our faith on a daily basis. This is why our parish is partnering with The Irish Catholic newspaper to launch a special initiative for 10 weeks from **November 16th**, 2018. Extra copies of the paper will be available for just €1 per edition for this time, and we encourage as many people as possible to pick it up. From hearing uplifting positive news from parishes around the country, to getting the Catholic perspective on the latest news, there is something for everyone in the paper. ***So please do pick up a copy, take time to read it throughout the week, and invest in your faith this winter.***

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:
Harris Boland



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Today's feast marks the dividing line between the hidden and the public life of Jesus. No sooner does Christmastide end than we move directly into the last three years of Jesus' life. The liturgy, like the scriptures, pass quickly over the thirty or so years in between.

Reflection - The dynamic and marvellous aspect of baptism is largely toned down by our celebration of baptism by pouring a little water over the person's head. Only in baptism by immersion as in today's scripture is the symbolism really effective. Baptism is closely associated with new life. The water which completely covers the person symbolises the womb and coming up out of the water, the bursting forth into a new form of life, full of possibility and choice. (Source: *St. Paul's Missal*)

When I was a seminarian in Clonliffe, we studied as you can imagine the Sacraments. One of the text books was called 'How to Understand the Sacraments'. It was printed in 1989 and is still in my opinion an excellent text book. As the book states in its introduction, 'This book invites you to make a journey. If you follow it step by step, it will lead you to discover a rich world, that of the sacraments'. It has a lot to say on Baptism, so much in fact that I will continue in next week's newsletter.

'You shall be my witnesses' are Jesus' last words. His mission accomplished, that of the apostles begins. In their turn they are to accomplish the work entrusted to them. They recall their Master's prayer, 'I have accomplished the work which you gave me to do... I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world... And this is eternal life, that they know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you sent.' They are sent out along the roads of the world to proclaim the gospel.

For those who are born into a Christian family and are baptised at birth, this slow transfiguration of existence can begin as life begins. It can be the fruit of a later encounter, a discovery of Christ at a more advanced age, as happens with the baptism of an adult. It always presupposes an initiation, an introduction into the community of the witnesses to the Lord Jesus.

Such an initiation takes time. The rites which mark its course gradually reveal the different aspects of life in Christ. Adults often take several years to be integrated in this way. Children baptised at birth pursue their Christian initiation during the years of instruction. Then in their burgeoning freedom they have to undergo the inward conversion necessary for all the Lord's disciples.

Baptism is the sacrament mentioned most often in the New Testament. The word comes from the Greek, *baptizein*, which means immerse. Originally, for baptism it was not enough to pour a little water on the forehead. The baptisteries of the first centuries were quite large cisterns, often the form of a cross. He catechumen went down one side by a series of steps, was immersed in the water, and came out the other side. That helps us to understand better how baptism is both:

- Immersion in the death of Christ and a resurrection;
- A passing, like that of the Hebrews through the sea at their departure from Egypt under the leadership of Moses.
(Continue next week)



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*How much better our family life would be if we used the words....
Please. Thank you...and I'm sorry. Pope Francis*



Planned Giving 2019

New Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection in the Sacristy. You might also consider dropping them in to the identified and addressed houses in your road/street etc. Thank You

Confirmation Mass

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and their families and praying with them.

Week of Christian Unity-2019

Every year from the 18th to the 25th January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme, "Only Justice" (Deut 16:18-20), was chosen by the Christian Communities from Indonesia to help them reflect on 'how do divisions in society contribute to divisions in the Church?'

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue. It is an opportunity to recognise and receive the richness and value that are present in the other, the different, and to ask God for the gift of unity.

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) writes: "The immense numbers of people who have not received the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot leave us indifferent. Consequently, commitment to a unity which helps them to accept Jesus Christ can no longer be a matter of mere diplomacy or forced compliance, but rather an indispensable path to evangelisation" (E.G 246)

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Peter O'Neill

Ashton Broc

Denise Smyth

Jugback Green

Peggy Garrigan

Commons West



World Youth Day – Panama in Dublin

Calling all youth and young adults aged 16-29 Creating the best parts of World Youth Day here in Dublin for those who can't go. It will be a celebration of faith – we'll live stream the Pope's talks and homilies – we'll have music, workshops, drama, food, fun and fellowship. **Save the Date** From 5pm January 26th to 5pm January 27th (Bring your sleeping bags) Booking – www.emmauscentre.ie DARE TO SAY YES!

Open Morning – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Morning will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Monday 14th January from 9am – 10.45 am. All welcome.

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment application forms for girls starting school in September 2019 are available from the school from 14th January completed forms to be returned before January 31st

Birth Certificate must accompany all forms

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2019 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st

Birth Certificate must accompany all forms

Retrouvaille – a Lifeline for Married Couples: Do you want to improve the communication with your spouse? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse? The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next 8th – 10th February 2019. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email info@retrouvaille.ie or visit www.retrouvaille.ie

Save the Date:

World Day of the Sick 2019 will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic *Community struggle with addiction - A Pastoral response*. Mass for World Day of the Sick will be held on 10 February 2019 in Corpus Christi 3.00pm. More details closer to the time

Prayer for Family Life

Dear Lord, with Mary and Joseph, you have lived with a family;
Teach me always to appreciate the precious gift of being part of a family;
Show me ever new ways to protect and comfort those closest to me; and
Let me, each day, do something that will say I Love You without speaking the words;
But remind me also to frequently say those words;
Let me never part from any member of my family in anger;
Prompt me always to turn back without delay and to forgive and be forgiven,
And let me see your image within each person in my own family, and in my greater family.
Knowing that in your Kingdom we will truly be one family united by your sacrifice on the cross. **AMEN**

Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service. Next meeting **14th January** Further information please phone Brid 086 6006397 or Terri 8403243