

that remain unfulfilled. We know that despite our best efforts we often end up doing things we know we do not want to do. We know our failures and our sinfulness.

**The name of God is mercy.** Our God is not one who will never be satisfied with our efforts, who will always demand more. God knows our weakness and our sicknesses and he forgives even seventy times seven, as the scriptures tell us, and that means without number. He wishes us to be free and he wishes others to be free through their encountering his mercy through us.

Sinfulness is not about breaking arbitrary rules; sinfulness is failure to love and failure to be merciful. Selfishness and harshness and judgementalism damage us and those around us and poison society. Judgementalism can become a truly vile and nauseating sickness. The judgmental can even try to hide behind the idea of being righteous, but they end up being merely self-righteous.

God's mercy embraces all. God's mercy drives us to reach out and encounter those who have not experienced mercy, those on the margins of society who we and our society might prefer to be put out of our sights. We can even begin to think of the marginalised and the unfortunate and those who are different as a threat, as a danger, so we banish them even physically from our sights".

*Fr. Michael Carey*

### **Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Jim Thomas	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am Cora & Tom Mularkey
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Christy Dignam Christine Darcy(MM)	
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Irene Lawless	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm James & Ella Monks Alice Burns (MM)
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Victor Geddes	
<b>Wed</b> 8.00 John O'Brien	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Patrick Moore
<b>Wed</b> 10.00 Special Intention	<b>Sun</b> 11.00pm Rose Howard
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am John Grant	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Moira Kavanagh	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am John o'Brien	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm John & Brendan Clarke
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am John Taylor	

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

**Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am & 12 noon, Mon 9.20am**

There will be a Drynam Church Fundraising Committee meeting on Tuesday 27th September at 8:00PM in the Church Hall.

### **INVITATION**

A Unique Day Conference: **Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016**, 10am – 4pm

**“The Joy of Love, Amoris Laetitia and the World Meeting of Families in Ireland**

**2018**“at St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. It is a working in-service day for all of us preparing for the journeys leading to and towards participating in the World Meeting of Families, 2018. Pre-booking and registration is required for this event as places will be limited. Individual booking forms should be completed as soon as possible to include you and your colleagues and representatives. **Admission is free.** Lunch will be provided. Contact Colette at the Parish Office if you are interested.

### **Lectio Divina**

The meeting resumes on Tuesday September 27th & the group meet every Tuesday in Parochial House, Seatown Road, from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. For anyone interested in developing scripture in their lives *All welcome*



**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948, 087 1621662**  
**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**

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **The Name of God is MERCY**

*“Deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy”*

**Newsletter Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The Diocese has recently returned from its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. In his opening Homily the Archbishop delivered, what I consider to be a good summary of mercy and the ongoing Year of Mercy. Below is an extract from his homily.

“We gather here in Lourdes in the context of the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. We celebrate mercy because we have received mercy. Pope Francis writes: “The name of God is mercy”. How often do we overlook and forget that truth? We have all too often decided for ourselves that God is a harsh judge and we have created within ourselves, in our communities and even in our Church a climate of judgementalism.

When we overlook the mercy that God has shown to us, then we begin mercilessly to judge and to criticise and to categorise others. We begin to divide people up. We decide who is good and who is not. We become quick to judge even when we are unaware of the true situation. We easily misjudge because we categorise people as we want to. How many hearts and lives have been torn and even destroyed by others who judge rashly!

Mary is the one who shows us that we are called to discover and do the will of God even when we do not understand it. We read in the Gospel how Mary and Joseph face the human challenge of accepting the birth of Jesus, the saviour. That birth is entirely the fruit of the Holy Spirit but the child is entrusted to the care of Mary and Joseph. Mary and Joseph accept even though they do not fully understand what they are being called to as they give their son the name *Jesus*, God with us, the one who will save his people.

What is it that gave Mary and Joseph this ability to accept the words of the angel when what they were being asked appeared impossible to human categories. It was because they had a faith in a God who acts beyond human categories, in order for us to know what it is to be truly and fully human. God revealed himself through being merciful. God had always been faithful and merciful to his people even when they were unfaithful.

It is very easy for us today to think in the opposite sense. God acts beyond human categories, but we can act as if salvation and living a good life should be according to our categories. We fail to remember that it is God through his mercy alone that can turn everything to the good, if we love him and realise that we are called to live according to his way and to his purpose.

Negativity and judgementalism do not change hearts. Indeed they only provoke negativity and hostility as a response by the other and only drag ourselves into being even more deeply trapped in our own negativity. Negativity and judgementalism leave people miserable in themselves and create distrust and disharmony in society. Mercy heals others and frees us ourselves and creates a caring society. Mary is our example of the one who understood how God's mercy can change even the things which seem impossible and mysterious to human thought.

There is, however, sickness in each of us: each of us knows the troubles and anxieties we hold in our hearts; we know our failures; we know the hopes and ambitions



## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

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

### **Do This in Memory-Enrolment Mass**

I welcome the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS, the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS to the 6.30pm Saturday (Vigil) Mass, and the 6.30pm Sunday evening Mass for their enrolment into the Do This in Memory Programme, which is part of their Parish based preparation 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 for these Masses.



### **Diocesan Safeguarding Day**

This Sunday is Diocesan Safeguarding Day. It is third year that the Diocese has had such an event. I'd like to take this opportunity to assure all parishioners that Diocesan safeguarding policies and practices are followed in this Parish. Safeguarding is all things we do to ensure that children are protected from harm. We need to constantly remind ourselves of the importance of following safeguarding procedures and good practice guidelines. Everyone understands that you must get a driving licence, tax and insure your car before taking it out on the road. In the same way the diocese requires that no person can have access to children through the Church without certain safety measures being put in place such as: adopting a child centred approach, which involves valuing children and demonstrating our respect for them; obtaining the consent of parents for the involvement of their children in parish activities; choosing carefully those who work with children in our parish. Our parish Child Safeguarding policy is available on the Church Notice Boards and in the Parish Office

### **Child Safeguarding Representatives**

The child safeguarding representatives for St. Colmcille's Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation Drynam are: **Sr. Margaret Ryan; Maryanne Higgins and Eileen Rossiter**. Their phone numbers are on the notice board or can be contacted by telephoning the Parish Office. The Diocesan designated person is Mr. Andrew Fagan, who is the Director of the Child Safeguarding and Protection Service of the Diocese. His number is 01-8350314

*“Families need to know that the Church is making every effort to protect their children. They should also know that they have every right to turn to the Church with full confidence, for it is a safe and secure home. Consequently, priority must not be given to any other kind of concern, whatever its nature, such as the desire to avoid scandal, since there is absolutely no place in ministry for those who abuse minors”. Pope Francis*

### **Church Choir**

The Church Choir is asking for your help. They need new members from NOW. Membership of the choir is not very onerous; it involves singing at Mass at 11.00am on Sundays and singing at the Christmas and Easter celebrations. Practice is normally held for half an hour before Mass. You don't have to have a great voice to join the choir. As long as you can hold a tune you would be very welcome. *Remember that to sing is to pray twice*. The current membership of the choir is quite low, so **the choir will come to an end** if we do not have new members. So please give it some thought and if you can come along at 10.30 to talk to myself and to give it a try until Christmas for the Carol Service. **Anne McDonagh – Choir Director**

**Bethany Bereavement Support Group** The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. in the Parochial House. Next Meeting 26th September. For further information please phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m.

### **Year of Mercy –**

**“A Church in which the proclamation of God's mercy is not foundational, operational and obvious is not being true to its founder”**. During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognise that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!

### **Date for Diary- ‘Bible Readathon’**

Swords in conjunction with River Valley and Brackenstown will be holding a **‘Bible Readathon’** on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct from 3.00pm to 9.00pm. The day will be divided into 10 minute slots – more info in the coming weeks newsletters.

### **Blessing for Expectant Mothers**

A special Blessing for Expectant Mothers will take place on Wednesday 5th October at 8pm in Our Lady of Mercy Church, Brookwood Grove Artane

### **We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:**

Pstrick Luke Foy, Nia Kate O'Farrell, Marcus Etiosa Chizitelu Emokpae, Kody Francis Beasley, Cian Michael Ó'Súilleabháin, Alana Delia Rogers Kennedy.



### **Date for Diary**

The Autumn Liturgy Seminar takes place in Clonliffe on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 9.30pm to 1.30pm**. The topics included are: 1) RCIA: experiencing the first few steps; 2) Confirmation: What are we at?; 3) The Liturgical Year; 4) Singing the Mystery of Faith; 5) Emmanuel 2017. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Colette

### **Fundraising Manager for Drynam New Church**

The Church of Our Lady of the Visitation in Drynam is part of Swords Parish. The Drynam Pastoral Team has been approved by Archbishop's House to replace the current Pre Fab church with a permanent structure that will serve the needs of the local communities of Drynam, Kinsealy Court, Melrose, Kinsealy Downs, Holywell and surrounding areas. We must raise €950,000 to build the church. We have prepared a detailed fundraising business plan to achieve this. We require an experienced Fundraising Manager to assist the existing Fundraising Committee on a voluntary basis to achieve the objectives of the plan. If you feel you could contribute to directing this exciting project please contact Fr. Michael Carey, Fr Peter McCarron, or the Drynam Pastoral Team at [drynamchurch@gmail.com](mailto:drynamchurch@gmail.com).