

for and what God gives, so that our will can be conformed more fully to God's will. Prayer schools us in our faith and forces us to recognise ways in which we settle for lesser goods or even wrong goods.

And it's here that we come to the recognition that for such purification of our desires we have to be open to the Spirit praying within us, conforming our prayers to the will of God. As St Paul teaches in the letter to the Romans: 'The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words' (Romans 8: 26).

Such a journey in the purification of our desires as we persist in prayer, docile to the Spirit working within us, will scarcely remove the difficulties we often have in making sense of God's providence. We will end up sometimes silent like Job in the face of the mystery of God. And yet the more deeply we enter the journey of prayer, the more concrete our relationship with God becomes, the more truly we can call God, 'Father,' and the more fully we can realise the wonderful dignity we do have as human beings, as called to share in the work of God in bringing about the good of the world. (Source: Fr. Martin Robindra Ganeri is Prior Provincial of the English Province of the Order of Preachers.

*Fr. Michael Carey*

**Mass intentions for Next Week**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Ellen Finnegan & Margaret Pawley	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Jerry Murphy
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Tina Noble	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Moira O'Hare	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Charles Stefanazzi	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Special intention
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	<b>Sun</b> 11.15 Marie Corby
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Altar List of the Dead	

**At our Masses next weekend we also remember:** Fr Sean O'Neill, Niall Connor, Claire Dowling, Mary Gannon, Charlie Dowling

**Mass intentions for week commencing 5th August**

<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Mary Byrne	
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am Bernard Rabbitte	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Alice Tyrell	<b>Sat</b> 6.30pm Paul Murphy
Martin Quinn (1st An)	
<b>Wed</b> 8.00am Mary Mann	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am In Honour & Thanksgiving of
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Gerry Malone	Our Heavenly Father
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Denis O'Connell	
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am John O'Leary	
<b>Fri</b> 8.00am Special Intention	<b>Sun</b> 11.15am Elizabeth O'Brien
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Marian O'Connell	Andrew Fottrell (1st An)

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

First Friday Mass in Drynam this Friday at 9:20am .

**The Parish Office will be closed from Monday 5th August to Friday 9th August . It will re-open on Monday 12th August**

**Fr. Michael Carey-8403378: Fr John Collins 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**



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Ask and it will be given to You**

*"God is in his holy place."*

**Newsletter Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

*So I say to you: ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

This Sunday's readings are about prayer and, more specifically about petitionary prayer. We are invited to pray to God for what we need in the expectation that God will answer our prayers and will give us what is good for us.

In Genesis we see Abraham bartering with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, beating down the price like a customer in an Oriental market place, a little more each time until Abraham gets God down to just ten people. In the Gospel the disciples ask Christ to teach them how to pray and He gives them the Lord's prayer, with its simple set of petitions, and encourages them to persist in prayer with the vivid example of the reluctant friend, cajoled into giving what is wanted, despite every attempt to refuse.

So, we are invited to pray for concrete things, the things we need, the things we judge to be good for us. And such petitionary prayer is part of what we might call the dignity and fulfilment, even the adventure, of what it means to be human beings, created in the image and likeness of God. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God wills to bring about things in answer to our prayers. God gives us the dignity of being able to share in His work of providence by our own actions, in praying for things to come about, so that we can acquire confidence in God and recognise him as the origin of what is good for us.

However, if there is one kind of prayer that is unpopular with us and perhaps more unpopular with us in the modern age than ever before, it is such petitionary prayer. We feel reluctant to ask for concrete things, because we feel that very often such prayers are not answered. Such a view is understandable, but wrong. Faith tells us that God does answer all our prayers. However, the consequence of what faith tells us must be true is perhaps even more difficult for us to understand and accept. We must believe that God does answer all our prayers, but the reality must then be that the answer is so often no, no to the particular thing that we ask for. God does bring about good things in answer to our prayers, but what that good might be is often very different from any expectation and understanding we might have. If we ask, it is given to us; if we seek, it is found; and if we knock, the door is opened, but what is given and found is not what we might have expected.

And, at this point, we are challenged to undertake a difficult, but very worthwhile, journey in the purification of our desires, as we seek to make better sense of what are the goods that God wants us to pray for, so that there can be a better conformity of what we ask

## 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*



### Summer Schedule

#### **Weekday 8.00am Mass**

This Mass is dropped from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and will resume on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

#### **Confessions:**

Saturday confessions are available on Saturday evenings from 6.00pm to 6.20pm

#### **Visitors**

Now that we are in summertime, we get visitors to both of churches, whether holidaymakers or family members visiting home. You are all very welcome and I hope that you have a pleasant and safe holiday/family visit in Swords.

#### **God's Housekeepers**

The next date for cleaning the Church is next **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August** after the 10.00am Mass. Can cleaning **group 1** for this Friday please turn up! Also if anyone has a half hour to spare you would be most welcome

### Mass intentions for week commencing 12th August

**Mon** 8.00am Sr Laboure Cuddihy

**Mon** 10.00am Gerard Harnett

**Tues** 8.00am Special Intention

**Tues** 10.00am McGreevy & Graghty Families

**Wed** 8.00am In Thanksgiving

**Wed** 10.00am Marian O'Connell

**Wed** 6.30pm Fr Brian Keenan

**Thurs** 8.00am Special Intention

**Thurs** 10.00am Holy Souls

**Fri** 8.00am Eileen Donovan

**Fri** 10.00am Jim Stowe

**Sat** 6.30pm John Reid

**Sun** 8.30am Geraldine Harrison

**Sun** 11.15am Bridie Ferris

**Mary's Meal Collection:** A very sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who supported the Church Gate Collection for Mary's Meals Ireland last weekend - [www.marysmeals.ie](http://www.marysmeals.ie) We are delighted to announce that a grand total of €1,481.20 was raised which, is enough to feed 95 children with Mary's Meals, at school, for a whole school year! We are extremely grateful to you, for supporting the collection and to all those who promised to pray for the on-going work of Mary's Meals, in 18 of the poorest countries around the world. May God bless you all!

### 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,, from 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents. Date of next meetings Monday 29th July & Monday 12th August. Further information please phone Terri 8403243

### St. Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

This takes place on **Saturday 10th August**. To book your seat please contact Mary: 087-2711376 or Ita: 01-8402268. Coach costs €15 and departs from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. There will be a stopover for Breakfast/Snack en - route and an Evening meal/ carvery on return at Percy French Hotel, Srokestown. (This cost is not included in the coach fare)



### Scripture Note

Prayer forms the subject of the First Reading and the Gospel. Prayer is a favourite theme of Luke. In the First Reading we see Abraham interceding with God on behalf of Sodom, a city full of evil. Troubled by the idea of the innocent being punished along with the guilty, he begins to bargain with God. The story highlights the importance of intercessory prayer and reveals a lot about the mercy of God.

This prepares us for the Gospel which shows Jesus at prayer and contains the Lord's Prayer. Luke's version is shorter than Matthew's, which is believed to be closer to the original version. Jesus urges the disciples to go on asking for what they need with persistence and confidence. (Source: Fr. Flor McCarthy, SDB)

### Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage Fund

The Legion of Mary will next weekend August 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> hold their annual outdoor collection in aid of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Trust. The monies from this very worthwhile collection goes to the Lourdes Office at Archbishop's house and helps sponsoring the cost of sending sick pilgrims to Lourdes with the Diocesan annual pilgrimage on September each year.

### Living the Paschal Mystery

Most of us first learned to pray by saying prayers - meal prayers, bedtime prayers, the Guardian Angel prayer, the Our Father and Hail Mary. This is a good beginning because it gives us an anchor. It gives us words to get started. As we grow older and we come to know God better, however, there is always the risk that these "memorised prayers", prayers known by heart and so familiar to us, might become rote. We could end up just "saying prayers". Some people are proud of the fact that they say three rosaries or more a day. That may be good. Or it may not be so good, if all they are doing is rattling through the words. The kind of prayer Jesus taught is prayer from the heart, a prayer of communion, a prayer of attentiveness to divine Presence, a prayer of seeking God's will. We cannot ask or seek or find if we are not sure of the presence of the Other. Praying - even saying familiar and much loved memorised prayers - must bring us to divine encounter and to listen to God's will for us. Prayer is the communion of Person with person. It is the utterance of the spirit to Spirit. Of life to Life.

Prayer cannot be limited to set times, although that is necessary, too. The gospel says that Jesus was "praying in a certain place." We know that the Mount of Olives was one of his favourite places for prayer. Jesus had set times for prayer: before undertaking a mission, during ministry, early in the morning. Jesus also was constantly in communion with his Father; this is the "always" of prayer. This is what we really wish to emulate: communion with God as abiding presence. Lord, teach us to pray! (Source: *Living Liturgy*)