

It was a brilliant reconciliation of those conflicting traditions, each of which cherishes a truth of our faith: God is everywhere, and it is wonderful that he shared our lives at a particular time and place. Anywhere in the world, from Chicago to Tokyo you can walk with Jesus, see him embrace his mother and meet the daughters of Jerusalem, be crucified and buried.

This is a beautiful expression of the core of our faith, which is that Jesus embraced the dramas of every human life, our triumphs and failures, our joys and sorrows. In the Stations of the Cross, we remember how the Lord is with us, especially when we seem to be stuck and have lost the way forward. He walks with us, and trips with us when we stumble and helps us to our feet again. (Source: *The Stations of the Cross* by Fr. Timothy Radcliffe)

Fr. Michael Carey

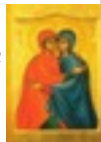
### Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

<b>Mon</b> 8.00am Margaret O'Brien	
<b>Mon</b> 10.00am Leo McDonald	<b>Sat</b> 10.00am John & Jeanette Boyle
<b>Tues</b> 8.00am People of the Parish	
<b>Tues</b> 10.00am Dolores Biddulp	<b>Sat</b> 6.30 (Vigil) Richard & Eva Kerns
<b>Wed</b> 8.00 am Robert Donovan	
<b>Wed</b> 10.00am Charles & Mary Murphy	<b>Sun</b> 8.30am Lily & Joe McGuirk
<b>Thurs</b> 8.00am Teresa Cunningham	<b>Sun</b> 11.00am Paul Burke
<b>Thurs</b> 10.00am Special Intention	Joe Brangan
<b>Fri</b> 8.00 am Altar List of the Dead	Kay Taylor
<b>Fri</b> 10.00am Altar List of theDead	<b>Sun</b> 6.30pm John & Kathleen Wade

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

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

We have tea and coffee today after all Masses. We are also displaying a small collection of CDs, DVDs and books in the hall that you may be interested in for a very small donation. All proceeds are going to Trocaire's Lenten Campaign.



### St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up next weekend at all Masses

### Word Day of Prayer

World Day Of Prayer will take place in St Colmcille's Church on Friday March 6th at 7.30pm, we would be delighted if you could join us at this very prayerful hour

### Brackenstown Parish

Their annual Parish Retreat begins next Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March – details on the outer notice board in the porch. Archbishop Diarmuid will speak there on Monday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30pm on the upcoming Synod on the Family – all welcome. On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm Elma Walsh, mother of the late Donal Walsh, “an inspiration to a generation” will speak, again – all welcome. Also don't forget their Lenten Bible challenge on Tuesday's from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in their Parish Meeting Room

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)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon –Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

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2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### The Stations of the Cross

*“It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me”*



### Newsletter Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015

Almost every Catholic church has the Stations of the Cross on its walls. Moving from each station to the next, we accompany Jesus on his short journey from the palace of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem, where he was condemned to death, to the cross and then to his tomb. This brief and tortuous

journey happened in a hot and dusty city in the Middle East two thousand years ago. What sense does it make to reenact it in the churches from Alaska to Cape Town today? What is going on?

This ancient devotion is the fruit of two traditions that are in fruitful tension with each other. On the one hand, God is everywhere; we do not have to go to any special place to encounter the divine. God is just as much in Dublin or Jakarta as Jerusalem. On the other hand, God became flesh and blood in this particular human being, who lived in a remote outpost of the Roman Empire, which therefore remains for us still today the Holy Land.

The Christians of the first century believed strongly in God's omnipresence. We do not need holy places to be in contact with God. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father” (John 4:21). Stephen, the first martyr, is arrested because he “never ceases to speak words against this holy place” (Acts 6:13), the temple. The expansion of Christianity around the Mediterranean and the destruction of the temple in AD 70 confirmed this new faith in its liberation from any holy places. You can be a Christian anywhere.

Christianity has globalisation in its DNA from the beginning! Gregory of Nyssa in the fourth century claimed “a change of place does not bring one closer to God, but there where you are God will come toward you.” Martin Luther scorned Christians who venerated holy places: “As for the tomb in which the Lord lay, which the Saracens now possess, God values it like all the cow pastures in Switzerland”.

But from the beginning, this was in tension with another tradition, which tapped into the universal religious desire to go on pilgrimage. Christianity kept alive the Jewish love for Jerusalem and the temple. “The Lord loves the gates of Zion/more than all the dwelling places of Jacob” (Ps 87:2). It has been claimed that the passion narrative in Mark's gospel is rooted in the earliest version of the Stations of the Cross, as pilgrims followed the route of Jesus' last hours. The angel says to the women at the empty tomb, “see the place where they laid him” (Mark 16:6). From the very beginning people did indeed come to see.

The cult of the martyrs led to pilgrimages to their tombs. From the fourth century onward, the Holy Land became the goal of pilgrims. Constantine's mother Helena, claimed to have found the true cross and the tomb of Jesus. Pilgrims came to see the places where Jesus lived and died....but most Christians from Western Europe could never make their way to Jerusalem. It was too far, too expensive, and extremely dangerous, especially in times of conflict between Christianity and Islam. The Stations of the Cross evolved so that anyone anywhere could make that pilgrimage without leaving home. You could just go to your local church.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

*Antiphon – “ One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God”*

### Conversion/Repentance

*“Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand” Mt. 4.17*

Conversion has to do with crossing over, with changing of direction, with a shifting of position. It means letting go of one situation or position, and moving to another one. It's basically about change and change is gradual. Blessed John Henry Newman put it beautifully when he said, *‘to live is to change, and to become holy or whole is to have changed often’*. When I speak of change, or moving away from something, what am I talking about? It's what Christian doctrine refers to as the seven deadly sins: **Pride; covetousness; lust; gluttony; envy; anger and sloth.** In modern language it would look as follows: Considering myself as superior to others; being jealous of what they have, and begrudging them their success; using others to meet your own needs, and confusing this with love; once again, we have the green eyed monster of envy or begrudgery, and an inability to rejoice in another's success; anger is just another word for wounded pride, because someone dared rain on my parade; and lastly, we have sins of omission, where I'm always going to get around to doing the good, but just not yet!

### Seven Candles

In both our Parish Churches, you will notice 7 candles. This is an idea from the Torcaire resource book. On the First Sunday of Lent all seven candles are lit. Gradually each Sunday of Lent (including Good Friday) a candle is extinguished. As we extinguish the candles we recall one of Jesus' Last Seven Words:

- (a) Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Lk.23:34) (b) I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise (Lk.23:43) (c) Woman, Behold your Son...Behold your mother (Jn.19:26-27) (d) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mk.15:34)
- (e) I thirst (Jn.19:28) (f) It is finished (Jn.19:30)
- (g) Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Lk.23:46)

### Saturday Morning Mass

As I wrote in last week's newsletter the Saturday morning 10.00am Mass is to continue. There will be a summer schedule though where this Mass will be 'dropped'. To that end this Mass and the morning Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will cease on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June and will resume on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

### Lectio Divina

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter this is a wonderful way of praying by yourself but it also ideal as a group/fellowship way of praying which is very safe and not at all about revealing your innermost life experiences, thoughts or feelings. Our Parish is very lucky to have a well established prayer group. If you want to give it a go and *you would be made feel very welcome*, just visit the Parochial House, Seatown Rd, where this group meets every **Tuesday from 8.00 to 9.00pm.**

**A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE:** Most people have no idea what God would make of them if they would only place themselves at his disposal.....St. Ignatius Loyala (1491-1556, founder of the Jesuits)

**Msze Swieta w Jeryku Polskim** w Niedziele 8 Marzec, o godz 18.45pm w St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown Road, Swords. (Spowiedz 18.15 - 18.40 pm)



## Stations of Cross

As you can see this week's newsletter is about the stations of the cross. For the Season of Lent, I have placed prayers and reflections under each of the Stations in the Church. They will remain for Lent and will I hope help if you are not sure what to pray when at each station. I have put them there to encourage the praying of the stations during Lent and parents will I trust find them helpful if they want to teach their children with them. *If you are very busy you could 'space out' the stations and pray them over the course of a week.*



## Ministers of the Word

There is a workshop in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 8.00pm – 9.30pm.** It will focus on the readings of Holy Week and in general how you can proclaim the meaning of God's Word by your preparation and delivery. If you are interested please leave your name with Colette at the Parish Office.

*There will be a workshop for Ministers of the Eucharist on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April and Baptism Teams on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April.*

## Reading the Signs of the Times

All Hallows are holding a series of public talks on Wednesday evenings in March from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Entrance fee is €10 or €30 for the four talks. Pay at the door. You can book by emailing [ehoulahan@allhallows.ie](mailto:ehoulahan@allhallows.ie) or telephoning 01-8520742.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March:** The Synod on the Family: What can we expect? Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March:** Women in the Church: Is this the Elephant in the Room? Prof. Mary T. Malone

## Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. It reached Ireland in 1712 when it was first celebrated in Mary's Lane Chapel in St Michan's Parish, Dublin. Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. 'Grace' is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favour or free gift from God. Christians often ask God for favours, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.

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

Lorenzo Joey Ray, Willow Isabella Lynch, Isabella Ellen Clarke, Sebastian Joseph Byrne, Karl Thomas Barker, Marks Tretjakovs, Mila Elizabeth O'Toole

