Of a child's soul, we'll return to Doom

The knowledge we stole but could not use.

And the newness that was in every stale thing

When we looked at it as children

We have thrown into the dust-bin the clay-minted wages

Of pleasure, knowledge and the conscious hour-

And Christ comes with a January flower. (Extract from the poem Advent by Patrick

Kavanagh) Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special intention Sat 10.00am Michael & Mary Vesey

Mon 10.00 Maurice & Vera O'Connor

Tues 8.00am Tess Kelly

Tues 10.00am Patrick Smith Jnr

Wed 8.00am Andy Lyons

Wed 10.00am Denny & Annie Stafford

wed 10.00am Denny & Annie Stanfold

Thurs 8.00am Dec members of Legion of Mary **Thurs** 10.00am Dec members of Agnew Family

Thurs 6.30pm Marie Farrell

Fri 8.00am Priests of the Parish Fri 10.00am Oliver Morton Sat 6.30pm Saluatore Saputo

Sun 8.30am Theresa Malone

Sun 11.00am Patrick Barry Jnr

Sheila Doyle MM

Sun 6.30pm Ronald Kane

<u>Church of the Visitation Drynam</u> The Visitation of the BVM

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

Thank you to all who helped setting up and closing down each Sunday for the past 4 months in Scoil an Duinninigh. Also thank you to all who have helped bring our church back into fire regulation compliance in recent weeks and allow us to move back in today.

JESSE TREE-week 1

This tree is named after Jesse the father of David, the great king of Israel. 'A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse and from his roots a bud shall blossom' (Is 11.7). The symbols represent the promises God made throughout the Old Testament concerning the birth of His Only Son. Some of the most important promises of all were made to Jesse and his son David. They were promised that God's only Son would be born in their family. The first week of Advent will see the following symbols on our Jesse Tree in both our churches Apple: In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. People began to disobey the commands of God and so we needed a redeemer Ark: When Noah, his family and all the animals came out of the ark, God promised that he would always love his people. God's love was shown when Jesus came to live with us

<u>Joseph's Dreamcoat:</u> reminds us of the story of Joseph and his brothers. After he was rejected and sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, through understanding dreams, Joseph became an important person in the Egyptian kingdom.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Peggy Hiney
Concepta McGukin
Oaklands Ave
Melrose Park



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

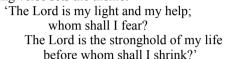
1st Sunday of Advent

My Light and My Salvation

"To you, I lift up my soul, O my God"

Newsletter Sunday 3rd December 2017

Psalm 26(27) is a very uplifting psalm about confident trust in the Lord. It's opening verse sets the theme:





It is a psalm that you should read and become familiar with. The more we get to know ourselves (and that is a lifetime study), the more we recognise how blind we can be. We are blind often to our own irritating traits. We are blind to the generous and inspiring qualities of those closet to us. We are blind to the signs of God's love and care for us in the world around us. We are blind to sources of beauty and joy around us. Our blindness often shows itself in our complaining and in our dissatisfaction with our lot. Prayer that the light of God may shine in our hearts and take away this blindness is necessary. Further, we learn where we are blind by taking seriously other' criticisms or comments; we learn more of it by honestly looking at ourselves in the light of Jesus' teaching. The appearance of the Messiah, Christ, is again and again spoken of in terms of light eliminating darkness and gloom. As we share the Body and Blood of Christ today, a good prayer would be that this light shine in every corner of our soul and our life: "The Lord is my light and my help" (Ps 26:1)

Advent

The main themes for Advent are: Preparing the way of the Lord; The joy of the Messianic times; Preparing for the birth of the Saviour. These great themes are developed over the four weeks of Advent with the first three weeks focussing on the second coming of the Lord and the last week focussing on the birth of Jesus. The days have been steadily getting shorter since June 21st and the shortest day of December 21st will soon be upon us. From then on the days gets slightly longer. So Advent is at the right seasonal time. Today, the beginning of the church's year, the first Sunday of Advent, a light begins to shine in the darkness, symbolised by the lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath. Again let us remind ourselves of Psalm 26 "The Lord is my light and my help" (Ps 26:1). Advent brings light to the dark days of winter. It is a time when we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our saviour Jesus Christ. It is good to allow some of the joyful anticipation of Advent to rub off on us a little, to allow ourselves to be touched by this waiting in joyful hope Advent stirs in us the desire to reach forward to grasp a better future, the future that God is always holding out to us. This first Sunday of Advent calls in us to look forward rather than to look back.

We have tested and tasted too much, lover-Through a chink too wide there comes in no wonder. But here in the Advent-darkened room Where the dry black bread and the sugarless tea Of penance will charm back the luxury

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



Gifts for Advent

The gift God offers this first week of Advent is the invitation to explore your inner longings. The Church, through our Advent customs, and even the weather of the season itself support such inner work. During the first week of Advent, give yourself time and space to contemplate what you are truly longing for in life. Know that this is the season when your longings will lead you to the Christ Child, in whom the hopes and fears of all the years are known and responded to with generous love.

• Christmas Draw 2017-last chance to buy tickets

St. Colmcille's is having its 2nd Christmas draw this year and as usual the Parish Pastoral Council is looking for your support. The draw will take place at **4pm on Sunday 3rd December** in the Parochial House on Seatown Road. 1st Prize €1000 2nd Prize €300



There will be 10 prizes in all. Tickets are €2 each and a book of 3 tickets for €5 Tickets will be on sale in the Church before and after all Masses on 18/19th November, 25th/26th November & 2nd/3rd December. Tickets will be available in the Sacristy.

To summarise:

- Draw on 3rd December• The cost of a ticket is €2 or 3 for €5
- Good Prizes• Please Help

• First Sunday of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent, beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the Way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is an invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

Prayer - Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday

that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person each day of our lives (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

• Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 8th December

We celebrate Mary, who, from the first instance of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, was 'by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved free from all stain of original sin'.

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are as follows: **St. Colmcille's:** Thursday 7th December (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Friday 8th December 8.00am and 10.00am

• Painting of Church

Thankfully after a period of disruption the Church is back in full use again. We want to thank the Parishioners for their understanding and co-operation during this period. However, the general consensus is that the disruption was well worthwhile as the new colour scheme has been very well received. We want to thank Tom Dempsey & Sons for their excellent work. We particularly want to thank Darren for his general work plus the ceiling stencilling (His suggestion and design) and the marbling of the pillars. His contribution to the selection of colours and the overall project was invaluable. Pat Lynch, Chairperson Finance Committee

• Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The annual Diocesan Collection for the local conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul takes place next weekend Sat/Sun **December 9**th/**10th** It will be the second collection replacing Share.

Members of the local Conference will speak at all Masses and will address the issue of the spiralling number of families in our Parish who are finding themselves on the 'breadline'. The Conference depends on your generosity to meet requests for assistance for these families. We would like to thank you for your generosity to date and hope that you will be equally generous this year.

Our love should extend in a very practical way to the poor. Our Lord was not born in a palace or even a semi-detached. He was born in a stable. Jesus once drew attention to his own poverty. "The birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head" (Lk. 9:58)

• Advent Wreath-week 1

The Advent wreath is significant in that unlike holly or floral wreaths, it has candles standing upright, representing the four Sundays of Advent and the thousands of years that God's people awaited the Messiah.

The round ring of the Advent Wreath represents eternity-time without end. As the circle is never ending, so time with God goes on and on. The evergreens are for eternal life, life without end. Evergreens do not die in the winter and like them God is always fresh and new. The candles remind us of Christ 'Light of the World'.



1st CANDLE – (purple) - THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE

We speak of hope – because God keeps his promises to us.

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of Old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask this in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen

• <u>Vocations Ireland – Net Team</u>

Hello, we are the Vocations Ireland NET Team! NET (National Evangelisation Teams) started in the USA, but is now all over the world. NET Ireland is based in Donegal and this year there are six teams working throughout Ireland.Our team very excited to be working in Brackenstown, Swords, Rivervalley Parish Grouping until about mid-December. During this time we will be doing confirmation classes and day retreats that will include games, music, drama, and will create a space for an encounter with Jesus through faith sharing and prayer time. We will also be starting youth events to integrate the young people into parish life. Our team is from all over the world: René and Rachel are Americans, Vanessa and Connor are Canadians, Alex is a Scotsman, and Pierce is from Donegal. We are very excited to be working with St. Colmcille's! Please keep our team and our ministry in your prayers. God bless! Thank You. *Rene – Team member*

• Christmas Mass Bouquets

Special Christmas Mass Bouquet cards are now available in the Sacristy and Parish Office for both churches. All Masses on Christmas Day and St. Stephens Day will be offered for the intentions of the donors of these cards. They cast €5 per card and would make a 'lovely stocking filler' for your nearest and dearest.

Swords Crime Prevention Night:

Organised by Glen Ellan and Sandford Wood Residents Association. and run by Swords Gardai highlighting ways to secure your home, mark your property against theft and general crime prevention advice with Q&A session. Open to all Swords residents on Tues Dec 5th 7.30-8.30pm Applewood C.C (upstairs)