

We see John's great courage in condemning the marriage of Herod to Herod's brother's wife. This is a reminder to us that not everything that is allowed by law is morally right. Herod had John arrested and put in prison. John stood up for the truth and unfortunately like many who stand up for the truth today he had to pay a price. John's courage in upholding the dignity of marriage and condemning the adulterous relationship of Herod and Herodias was to result in his death by beheading in prison. History repeats itself, and John the Baptist's beheading was repeated in another saint, St. Thomas More, 1478-1535, the first commoner to be Lord Chancellor of England, also suffered martyrdom under Henry VIII, for refusing to accept the marriage of Henry to Anne Boleyn. He was aware that just because something is lawful does not mean it is morally right. He was beheaded on July 6th 1535. His final words were, "The King's good servant, but God's first." He was canonised by Pope Pius XI in 1935 and St. John Paul II declared him patron of politicians in 2000

John's courage in upholding the truth about marriage, and his subsequent beheading as a result, challenges us in a time when it is not popular to speak the truth or live by the truth. Both he and St. Thomas More remind us that just because certain behaviour is enshrined in the law of the land does not mean that is morally right. John turning attention away from himself towards Jesus reminds us to do the same also in our lives. In each of us, we ourselves are to decrease and Jesus is to increase. St. John the Baptist, pray for us. (Source: Fr. Tommy Lane, Maryland. USA) **Fr. Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Richie O'Connell

Mon 10.00am John & Vera Kelly

Tues 8.00am Margaret McEvoy

Tues 10.00am Brian Nulty

Wed 8.00am Dessie Molloy

Wed 10.00am Special intention

Thurs 8.00am Larry Clare

Thurs 10.00am Patrick & Kathleen Deegan

Fri 8.00am Danny & Patrick Webb

Fri 10.00am Special Intention

Sat 10.00am Morning Prayer

Sun 6.30pm Laura & Denis O'Sullivan

& dec members of O'Sullivan family

John & Bridget McNulty

Sun 8.30am Special Intention

Sun 11.15am Nancy Lawless

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

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

Today, St. Vincent de Paul hold their monthly collection after Mass. The Irish Mass at 11:00 in Drynam will be the last before a break for July and August. It will recommence on Sunday 2nd September.

Prosper Fingal: This year, Prosper Fingal celebrates its 40th anniversary. The company was founded to provide services to adults with intellectual disabilities and has had very strong roots in Swords. From its small beginnings, the organisation has grown and now provides services throughout Fingal to 300 individuals. We would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped make Prosper Fingal the thriving, inclusive, caring company it is today. Please visit www.prosperfingal.ie for a deeper insight into this organisation.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Seamus Quinlan

Castle Grove



Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

"A man was sent from God, whose name was John"

Newsletter Sunday 24th June 2018



Today we celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist. He was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Luke tells us the angel Gabriel announced his birth to his father Zechariah and gave him the name John, which means "God is gracious." (Luke 1:8-23) Even while still in his mother's womb he recognised the presence of Jesus by leaping when Mary visited Elizabeth (Luke 1:41). It is the moment when John the Baptist was cleansed of original sin. The angel Gabriel had previously promised Zechariah that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit even while in the womb (Luke 1:15), and this promise was fulfilled when he was cleansed of original sin when Mary visited his mother Elizabeth.

John left his parents to live the life of a prophet in the desert. He preached in the desert dressed like an Old Testament prophet, wearing a garment of camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey (Mark 1:6; Matt 3:4). He proclaimed the kingdom of God and a coming judgment, and invited people to accept baptism as a sign of their repentance. His ministry resembled that of the prophets in that he disturbed the comfortable and comforted the disturbed. We see him disturbing the comfortable when he said to the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming retribution? Produce fruit in keeping with your repentance and do not presume to tell yourselves we have Abraham as our father." (Luke 3:7-8) His message obviously disturbed people so some of the powerful did repent, including tax-collectors and soldiers. Tax-collectors asked him what they must do and he replied, "Exact no more than the appointed rate." (Luke 3:13) Soldiers also repented, and his advice to them was "No intimidation! No Extortion! Be content with your pay!" (Luke 3:14)

His message spread far and wide. Mark says all Jerusalem and Judea made their way to him and as they were baptised in the Jordan they confessed their sins (Mark 1:5). We see John's humility when he did not want attention on himself but directed people to Jesus. People began to wonder if John was the Messiah so he reassured them that he was not. He declared that his ministry was preparing for the coming of the Messiah, "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8) When Jesus came to John asking for baptism, John recognised Jesus at once and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29) These words have found their way into the prayer of Mass; when the priest holds up the Sacred Host as we prepare for Holy Communion he says, "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..." Jesus began his public ministry after he had been baptised by John. An expectation had developed among the Jews that the prophet Elijah would return to earth once again to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah and Jesus later declared that John was that Elijah type person they were expecting (Mark 9:13). After Jesus' baptism once again we see John turning the attention to Jesus as he declared, "He must increase, I must decrease." (John 3:30) We are reminded of this fact celebrating John's birth just days after the summer solstice since the daylight will now decrease and we will celebrate the birth of Jesus just days after the winter solstice when the daylight will increase.

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.*



Sunday 1st July

From **next weekend** the roster will be as follows:

Saturday

Evening Vigil at 6.30pm

Sunday

Mass at 8.30am

Mass at 10.00am in Drynam

Mass at **11.15am**

The Swords grouping will have a Sunday evening **Mass in St Cronan's, Brackenstown at 5.30pm**

Sunday Evening Mass Intentions

The Masses booked for the 6.30pm Sunday Evening from 1st July have to be reassigned. Where there are phone numbers I will contact people. As a default position I will reassign them to the Saturday Evening Mass at 6.30pm. Of course they can be transferred to the Brackenstown Sunday Evening Mass at 5.30pm. If none of these options suit and the stipend has already been offered it will be returned.

Morning Prayer

Next Saturday-30th June, Morning Prayer will be celebrated at 10.00am. In terms of the Prayer Book it is week 4. After this Saturday, we will take a summer break and the Prayer will resume in September.

Golf Classic-2018

The amount raised was an incredible €6,696. Again a big thank you to the committee and to all who supported the Classic in whatever way

Ordination to the Priesthood

Please keep in your prayers at this time, Robert Smyth from the Parish of Knocklyon. Archbishop Martin ordained Robert a deacon in April of 2017. He will be ordained a priest for service in the Archdiocese of Dublin on Friday 29th June (Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul) at 3pm in St. Mary's Pro Cathedral. All are warmly welcome to attend.

St. Colmcille's Parish Pilgrimage to Knock

This takes place on **Saturday 11th August**. To book your seat please contact Mary: 087-2711376 or Ita: 01-8402268. The Coach costs €15 and will depart from 'The Star' at 8am sharp. There will be a stopover for Breakfast/Snack en – route and an Evening meal/carvery available on return at Percy French Hotel, Strokestown. (This cost is not included in the coach fare)

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Cassie Olivia Lawlor, Cian Michael Lawlor, Lorcan Alan Byrne, Ruairi James Brady, Ryan Liam Plunkett, Oisín Aaron Smith



World Meeting of Families

The Parish are taking names for a group booking for the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park on August 26th, if you wish to be part of the Parish group, please leave your name and phone number with Colette in the Parish Office. Tickets are limited.

We are also organising a coach, but the distance from the coach to the Phoenix Park will be at least 5km walk. If you already have a ticket for the Papal Mass through the ticket office, you can still avail of the coach service. Tickets for the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park will also be available online from 26th June at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/



Cemetery Sunday – Sunday 24th June at 4.00pm

This Sunday 24th June the Parish will celebrate Cemetery Sunday here in Swords. The Cemetery Mass will take place at 4.00pm in the Church - followed by Blessing of the Cemetery

Cemetery Sunday – Collection

As always there will be a collection at this Cemetery Mass in which the amount collected goes towards the upkeep of the Cemetery.

"Music Ministry Together (MMT) – Residential Summer school for anyone with a passion for liturgical music and who desire to serve as ministers in schools, parishes and communities, takes place this year from Tue 3rd to Sun 8th July at Cistercian College, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. This year there is also an EPV course available for primary teachers taking place alongside the MMT course running from Mon 2nd to Fri 6th July. MMT includes teaching sessions, workshops/masterclasses, various styles of Liturgy, celebration of the Eucharist, Sacraments, Catechises etc. Come for some or all of the week. Scholarships available. For more details email info@musicministry.ie call 086 249 0779 or check out the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/musicministrytogether/>

Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul

Peter was a humble fisherman, eventually chosen as the leader of the Twelve, the 'rock' on which the Church was built. Paul, a tentmaker from Tarsus, a Pharisee and a Roman citizen was a persecutor of the first Christians, but was converted by the Lord on his way to Damascus. He became the Apostle of the Gentiles. But they were chosen to become the pillars of our faith, which they sealed with their martyrdom in Rome.

The Church is like the human person: we are both body and spirit at the one time. The body of Christ – which is what we are – has both a bodily reality (membership, structure and sacraments) and a spiritual reality (the life of faith and prayer, the indwelling Spirit). The institutional and the prophetic dimensions of Church are sometimes in tension and that is really normal. To be part of the living body of Christ is to hear again Jesus' question, who do you say I am? As St Paul reminds us, no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3). Christ, Son of the living God, you call us to confess your name and to acknowledge you as Lord. Help us to live our faith and find new words for what we believe so that we may proclaim your Gospel to our contemporaries in words they can understand