

I am referring to the family of believers, the Church, a family that has God for Father and in which all consider themselves as brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ". Pope finished his homily by saying that "Today, then, you entrust your children to the goodness of God, Who is power of light and love; and they, though amidst the difficulties of life, will never feel abandoned if they remain united to Him. Ensure, you educate them in faith, teaching them to pray and to grow as Jesus did and, with His help, 'increasing in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour'".

I hope that by reading this newsletter on this wonderful Feast Day that you will consider anew the wonderful gift and grace that is the Sacrament of Baptism. Reflection upon this Sacrament, the gateway to all other Sacraments is always necessary for a deepening of your faith.

Make the Father Known

Jesus revealed his Father. So must we. Our vocation is as simple as that – to make the Father known.

How do we do make the Father known? Again this is simple too: 'In the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5:26).

'Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves' (James 1:22).

Ponder this week on how great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called of God – for that is what we are!! (Source: Walk with Me – Advent 2019)

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Frank Marron(An)
Patrick, Annie & Eileen O'Rourke (An)
Flan Clune (MM)

Sun 8.30am Kathleen O'Connor (An)

Sun 11.15am Lilian O'Reilly(An)



At our Masses this Sunday we also remember: Helen Gibson

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Donal Phelan

Mon 10.00am Nancy McDonald

Tues 8.00am Mary Kelly

Tues 10.00am Peter Harford

Wed 8.00am Roger Grosso

Wed 10.00am Breda Findley

Thurs 8.00am Dan Gillooley

Thurs 10.00am Jim Wilson

Fri 8.00am Robert White

Fri 10.00am Teresa McEntaggart

Next Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Zachery Parker

Sun 8.30am Pauline Temple

Sun 11.15am Judith Hamill & Dec family Members

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

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

There will be a Drynam Pastoral Team meeting on Tuesday 14th January at 8:00pm .



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

Facebook: St. Colmcille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



The Baptism of the Lord
The bridge God built between Himself and us

“Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come”

Newsletter Sunday 12th January 2020



Pope Emeritus Benedict gave the following homily a few years ago when he baptised infants in the Sistine Chapel on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. What he said is very relevant to the Feast Day and to the Sacrament of Baptism itself. This Feast day concludes the Christmas Period and marks the moment in which Jesus, having reached the age of around thirty, left Nazareth, and, coming to the River Jordan, allowed Himself to be baptised by John in the presence of many people. The Pope went on to say the following:

"Through Baptism human beings are introduced into Jesus' unique relationship with the Father, and thus the words that sounded out from the heaven on the only begotten Son become true for all men and women who are reborn from water and the Holy Spirit: 'You are my Child, the Beloved'.

How great the gift of Baptism is! Were we fully aware of this, our life would be a continuous 'grace'. What joy it is for Christian parents who have seen their love blossom in a new creature, to bring it to the baptismal font and see it reborn in the bosom of the Church for a life that will never end! A gift, a joy, but also a responsibility.

Baptism is the bridge God built between Himself and us, the path by which He makes Himself accessible to us. It is the divine rainbow of our life, the promise of God's great 'yes', the doorway of hope and, at the same time, the sign indicating the way to follow, actively and joyfully, in order to meet Him and to feel we are loved by Him.

Through Baptism, we give back to God that which came from Him. With this Sacrament, the newly-baptised become adoptive children of God, object of His infinite love which protects them and defends them from the dark forces of evil, it is still necessary to teach them to recognise God as their Father and to behave towards him as children".

When children are baptised, introducing them into the light of God and of His teachings, they are subject to no violence, rather they are given the richness of divine life in which the true freedom of children of God is rooted; a freedom which then has to be educated and formed over the years, that they may become capable of making responsible individual decisions.

The gift of the Sacrament of Baptism introduces your children into a new family, larger and more stable, more open and numerous than your own:

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*



Confirmation Mass

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of our new Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and their families and praying with them.

Ordinary Time

We are now in what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time'. The term 'Ordinary Time' may be misleading. In the context of the liturgical year the term "ordinary" does not mean "usual or average." Ordinary here means "not seasonal." Ordinary Time is that part of the Liturgical Year that lies outside the seasons of Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas. In Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects. The readings during the liturgies of Ordinary Time help to instruct us on how to live out our Christian faith in our daily lives.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC will meet on Monday 13th January at 8.00pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Rd.

Open Morning – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Morning' will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Monday 13th January from 9am – 10.30 am. All welcome.



Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment application forms for girls starting school in September 2020 are available from the school completed forms to be returned before January 31st
Birth Certificate & proof of address must accompany all forms

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2020 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st
Birth Certificate & proof of address must accompany all forms

Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? 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, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." **Date of next meeting 13th January** . Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

Week of Christian Unity-2020

Every year from the 18th to the 25th January (Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul), the Christian Churches celebrate the week of Christian Unity. This year the theme, "they showed us unusual kindness," finds its origins in the Acts of the Apostles (27: 18-18-10). The initial work was prepared by members of the Christian Churches in Malta and finalised by the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The scriptural reference is focused on the shipwreck of St. Paul believed to have occurred off Malta.

The theme stresses the unusual kindness given to St. Paul, something that must be seen in the quest for Christian unity. Through unusual kindness towards one another, Christians are drawn closer together, heeding the prayer of Jesus, 'that they may all be one'. There must also be an awareness of the need for hospitality to the many migrants and refugees who today embark on journeys as dangerous as that of St. Paul.

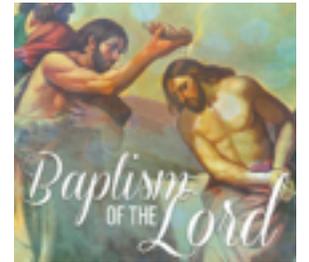
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue. It is an opportunity to recognise and receive the richness and value that are present in the other, the different, and to ask God for the gift of unity. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) writes: "The immense numbers of people who have not received the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot leave us indifferent. Consequently, commitment to a unity which helps them to accept Jesus Christ can no longer be a matter of mere diplomacy or forced compliance, but rather an indispensable path to evangelisation" (E.G 246)

The Baptism of the Lord

Begin by recalling some special moment between yourself and your parents. Did you ever hear from them the equivalent of "This is my son, my daughter, the beloved: my favour rests on you"? In Jesus' ministry, on several occasions, he felt such a word from his Abba, his Father. His baptism by John was one such moment, as was the

Transfiguration later on. Such deep love and affirmation grounded him as a human being and as God's prophet to the people of Israel. Our sense of calling grows out of our relationship with the Father, whose beloved we are, whose favour we enjoy.

Prayer - Let us hear again, Abba, Father, your words of favour to each one of us. Direct us on the Way of discipleship, that we may be bearers of the Good News by simply being who we truly are before you. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)



Planned Giving

New planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection from the Sacristy

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive a Christmas Dues envelope and would like to contribute to the Priests of the Parish, please take one from the book rack at the back of the Church. A sincere 'THANK YOU' to all who have returned their Christmas Dues envelopes