

shall see not just the one set of footprints in the sand, but hundreds, as we are surrounded and supported by those who love us. There will be times when, standing in the storms of our own making, we are challenged to demonstrate unusual kindness in the face of worldly indifference.

To demonstrate unusual kindness is to see the sister and brother in the monster's shame and know that they too are children of God. To demonstrate unusual kindness is to give without counting the cost, and to allow ourselves to be given unto without questioning worth. As we reflect upon, and pray for, Christian unity, we acknowledge the injury that we have caused, the pain that we carry, the baggage that we must jettison. We pray for Christian unity as the place from which we can move onward in faith and in hope for the redemption of the world and the restoration of creation.

For this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we accompany the churches of Malta, praying with and alongside them, praying also for them in their Christian journey as they seek the unity for which Christ prayed. And we rejoice with them that Malta traces its Christian origins back to the time of the Apostles. And in so doing, we enter into the drama of St Paul, those that travelled with him, and the inhabitants whom they met, to discover our shared unity, and in so doing recognise the importance of unusual acts of kindness that bear witness to the Gospel of peace and reconciliation. (Source: *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*)
Fr Michael Carey

Mass Intentions this Sunday

Sat 6.30pm Zachary Parker(An)
Sun 8.30am Pauline Temple (An)
Sun 11.15am Judith Hamill & deceased family members(An)



At our Masses this Sunday we also remember: Sophia Fox, Martin Walsh & family, Kitty & Henry Dawson, Bartle McDonnell Snr, George McDonnell

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special Intention	
Mon 10.00am Peggy Ferris	
Tues 8.00am Bartle McDonnell	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Tues 10.00am Beatification of servant of God Alphonsus Lamberti	
Wed 8.00am George McDonnell	Sat 6.30pm Thomas & Elizabeth O'Brien
Wed 10.00am Special Intention	
Thurs 8.00am Special Intention	Sun 8.30am Declan Hanratty
Thurs 10.00am Kathleen Phelan	
Fri 8.00am Betty Farrell	Sun 11.15am John Bateman
Fri 10.00am Emily Fleming	Paddy Kelly

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass)
Members of our Drynam choir are performing at the RTE One Service at 11:00am today. The Service is to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the music is led by Ian Callanan of Music Ministry Together in which our choir participates. .



God's Housekeepers

The next date for cleaning the Church is Friday January 24th after 10.00am Mass, Group 2

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. Colmille's Church, Swords & Church of the Visitation, Drynam



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Unusual Kindness

“All the earth shall bow down before you, O God”

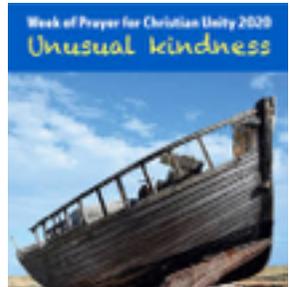
Newsletter Sunday 19th January 2020



As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, 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 Malts and finalised by the Faith and Order Commission of the World council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Introduction to this year's theme

Our prayer for Christian unity is deeply rooted in the Bible. We pray for unity because Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one, that the world might believe (John 17:20-21). St Paul also urged the churches to which he wrote to recognise their unity in Christ, even though there was much diversity within them (1 Corinthians 12-27).



For the churches in Malta, the Bible has special relevance for the shared life of the churches there, for the Gospel first came to Malta in the events that are told in the Acts of the Apostles, where St Paul and those with him encountered unusual kindness from the inhabitants. Many people in Britain and Ireland will have visited Malta on holiday and seen the place where these events are believed to have taken place. This is a reminder that Christianity is not merely a spirituality, but a faith rooted in events in human history: the redemption of humanity and the whole of creation. The unity for which we pray therefore serves to make Christ known in the world.

The story of St Paul's being shipwrecked on Malta in Acts 27 and 28 leads us, during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, to reflect upon many aspects of our own lives and the lives of our churches. As we approach one another, seeking unity, we recognise that we sometimes carry baggage from history, tradition and cultural expectation, which can weigh us down and threaten to overwhelm us. There is the danger that, in the face of that experience, we might lose sight of the hope which first called us and so give up reaching for the light which Christ offers us.

St Paul challenged his fellow travellers, sailors, soldiers and prisoners to keep up their courage. In the face of apparent desperation and hopelessness, we are challenged to put our trust in God and allow ourselves to be held and carried through the waters. There will be times when we are broken, as individuals and as churches, and looking back we

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*



Do This in Memory – Bridge Programme

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them.

Scoil an Duinninigh

Next Thursday 23rd January, the girls and boys will celebrate the Ceremony of Light as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This will take place in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation in Drynam at 7.00pm.

Ordinary Time – cont'd

As I said last week Ordinary Time is about walking with Jesus to Jerusalem and salvation. It is by embracing the dying and rising mystery of Jesus that we receive the life of God within us and renew it each time we celebrate the liturgy. Although much of ordinary Time unfolds during the summer months when many are on holidays, when the heat beings us to slow down our pace of life (*we hope!*), when there is a change in our pace of lives if for no other reason that 'school is out for summer', we must be careful that Ordinary Time doesn't become a temptation to 'holiday' from the demands of faithfully following Jesus.

Prayer of Reconciliation

Reconciling God,
as we feel the pain of past mistakes, shy away and retreat to individual strongholds;
help us surrender a false sense of who we are, all that tethers us, and all that we hold precious. Bind us to humility and compassion, as we learn together, to receive from You, abide in You and Your love. Amen.

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**

Living the Word Workshop:

29th January 7.30 – 9.30pm Holy Cross Diocesan Centre Clonliffe. Following last year's very successful workshop on Lectio Divina for Lent - Patricia Carroll of the Office of Evangelisation and Ecumenism will lead a workshop for this year's Lenten journey. Resources will be provided for each Sunday of Lent to lead small group reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Year A. If interested please contact Colette in the Parish Office.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees

This takes place today 19th January. In his pastoral message marking this important date in the Church calendar, Pope Francis reminds us how Jesus identified himself with strangers and outcasts: 'Jesus Christ is always waiting to be recognised in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and in exiles, and through them he calls us to share our resources, and occasionally to give up something of our acquired riches.' On this day we are asked to remember in our prayers those who have left our shores and also those who have joined us here in our parishes from overseas.

Let us remember in a special way those migrants whose journeys were filled with fear, trepidation and hostility. In particular, let us remember the elderly Irish community in Britain, the undocumented in the United States and Irish prisoners overseas. Closer to home we remember those who are victims of racism, human trafficking and those living in the direct provision system. May we all walk together in prayerful solidarity with migrant peoples – both at home and abroad. May they find comfort and shelter in our parish and in our community. (*Irish Bishop's Council for Emigrants*)

Week of Christian Unity 18th -25th January

The theme for 2020 Week of Christian Unity is 'Unusual Kindness'.

Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. **This year Christian Unity Week will be celebrated in St Columba's Church, (Church of Ireland) Swords with Liturgy at 7.30pm, followed by light refreshments on Wednesday 22nd January All are welcome to attend**



RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:
Nora McLoughlin **Broadmeadow**



NCBI -National Council for the Blind

The year 2020 is a special year for people with Vision Impairment. The practical reality of 2020 vision is ultimately missing for about 55,000 of our population. NCBI as the National Sight Loss Agency provides local support for education, employment & social connection, enabling those who are isolated to live as fully connected as possible.
Please support our Church Gate collections on Sat 25th Jan & Sun 26th Jan. *Thank you.*

Brackenstown Bible Study Group

On Monday 20th January, Brackenstown Bible Study group will be commencing our study an 11 week study of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Class will be held 7.30 to 8.30pm on Monday nights in St Cronan's Pastoral Centre. *All welcome at attend*