

God intervened in human history and human history is changed. Our notion of God has also changed. In Jesus Christ, God has become present in our world in a different way. Our God is not a distant God in heaven. God chose to be present in human history not just at the birth of Christ but also in our own day". *Fr Michael Carey*

Intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Special Intention	
Mon 10.00am Pat O'Reilly	Sat 6.30pm Eileen McKittrick
Tues 8.00am Pat Connolly	
Tues 10.00am Ethan Nulty	
Wed 8.00am William Farrelly	Sun 8.30am Peter & Catherine & O'Gorman & Elizabeth Flynn & Des Burrowes
Wed 10.00am Paddy & Pat Hall	
Thurs 8.00am Ann McLoughlin	
Thurs 10.00am Noel Garrigan	Sun 11.15am James Sheridan Evelyn Caul (1st) Suzanne Higgins (1st An)
Fri 8.00am Ester Millesum	
Fri 10.00am Betty Keegan	

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

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

Thank you to all parishioners for your support over the past year. As we communicated recently, please let us know if you wish to receive a refund of donations made towards a new church. Wishing you a very happy and peaceful new year from all on the Drynam Pastoral Team.

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION

The Season of Christmas ends with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord (13th Jan). As the season draws to an end, the solemnity of the Epiphany offers an opportunity to proclaim the centrality of Christ's paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life.

Know, dear brothers and sisters that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

On the sixth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten Season.

On the twenty-first day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the second day of June will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the ninth day of June, the feast of Pentecost.

On the twenty-third day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

On the first day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of Our Lord Jesus Christ to whom is honour and glory forever and ever. Amen (Source: Liturgical Ordo)



Irish Catholic Paper: There is a real need for us as Catholics to feed our faith on a daily basis. This is why our parish is partnering with The Irish Catholic newspaper to launch a special initiative for 10 weeks from **November 16th**, 2018. Extra copies of the paper will be available for just €1 per edition for this time, and we encourage as many people as possible to pick it up. From hearing uplifting positive news from parishes around the country, to getting the Catholic perspective on the latest news, there is something for everyone in the paper. ***So please do pick up a copy, take time to read it throughout the week, and invest in your faith this winter.***

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

The Epiphany of the Lord **The Meaning of Christmas**

"Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One has come"

Newsletter Sunday 6th January 2019

This week's newsletter is an extract from the Archbishop's Christmas Eve homily delivered in the Pro-Cathedral:



"I was struck by the headline in a Dublin newspaper yesterday that read, **"A nation yearns for meaning at Christmas"**. It noted that 86% of Irish people, questioned in a survey, believe that Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ, has become too commercial, while at the same time it found that the amount spent commercially this Christmas has gone way beyond previous years.

Modern Ireland has an identity crisis about how it wishes to understand Christmas. There are those who feel that Christ has long since been marginal in people's idea of Christmas and are resigned to that situation.

However, this is not the complete picture. Alongside all the commercialisation, Christmas is a time for great generosity. It is a time that brings out the best in us. Families come together. The lonely are remembered

Paradoxically, much of what is now celebrated commercially draws heavily from elements that we have inherited from the Christian tradition. The Christian idea of the celebration of the birth of Christ was never just about what happens in Church, what is beautifully celebrated in carol services or liturgies.

Christmas was always also about a vision of human relations in which people care and share, in which people rejoice in the experience of goodness, in which people gather and unite, in which children celebrate simple joys. The fundamentals of what Christmas really means were never just created in Hollywood. They have deeper roots that still endure.

Christmas is also a time in which people come to Church. This evening our Churches are filled to capacity for a joyful celebration. Believers come to celebrate the mystery of the incarnation of the son of God. Others find that the simplicity of the Christian mystery rekindles aspects of their faith that throughout the year they have not lost but may never have had occasion to reflect on due to the time pressures in which people live today. Some of course will celebrate Christmas in their own way without any reference to God and some may even celebrate Christmas with the intention of telling God he has no place their lives. Some will actively try to remove public mention of Jesus at Christmas as if the story of his birth constituted a public endangerment.

Some practicing Christians will betray the real Christmas by the way they live. The Church as an institution hosts wonderful charitable organisations that really blossom at Christmas, yet it also hides within its history a shameful failure to protect children and the vulnerable. Many of those who celebrate Christmas without God may do so because they have a false notion of God. Many of those who celebrate with all the frills of religion may also be celebrating the wrong God. The Gospel reading that the Church chooses for this night begins with a series of historical details, about who was Emperor and who was governor and how Mary and Joseph were to be registered as citizens. Why is this so? The evangelist wishes it to be noted that the great mystery of the birth of the Son of God took place within real history.

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*



Planned Giving 2019

New Planned Giving/Family Offering Envelopes are now ready for collection in the Sacristy. You might also consider dropping them in to the identified and addressed houses in your road/street etc. Thank You

Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass, for their second Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to rekindle and remind the young people and their families of the experience of being at a Mass where we hope that they will feel at home in the Church, to feel that they belong and are welcome. We look forward to seeing them and praying with them

Christmas Dues Envelopes

If you did not receive 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

World Youth Day – Panama in Dublin

Calling all youth and young adults aged 16-29 Creating the best parts of World Youth Day here in Dublin for those who can't go. It will be a celebration of faith – we'll live stream the Pope's talks and homilies – we'll have music, workshops, drama, food, fun and fellowship.

Save the Date From 5pm January 26th to 5pm January 27th(Bring your sleeping bags)

Booking – www.emmauscentre.ie DARE TO SAY YES!

St Finian's Parish Rivervalley - An Introduction to the Gospel of St. Luke

Six classes running on six Fridays Beginning on Friday, January 11th from 10.30am to 12.00pm (Including tea and coffee!) **Venue** – the Oratory, St. Finian's Church, River Valley

Each class will include discussion and an audio-visual presentation from renowned theologian, Frances Hogan. Contact Ann at 087 054 4882 for further information. *All welcome*



Anam Cara North Dublin, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Parent Evening for bereaved parents on Wednesday 16th of January at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, This event is free and open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether their death was recent or not.

The Three Wise Men

One legend says that the wise men were of three different ages. Caspar was a very young man, Balthazar was in his middle age, and Melchior was an old man.

When they arrived at Bethlehem, the three of them betook themselves to the cave of the Saviour's birth, and they went in one at a time. When Melchior, the old man, went into the cave, there was no one there but a very old man his own age with whom he was quickly at home. They spoke together of memory and gratitude.

The middle-aged Balthazar encountered a middle-aged teacher when he went into the cave, and they talked passionately of leadership and responsibility.

When young Caspar entered, he met a young prophet and they spoke words of reform and promise.

When they had all gone outside after going in one by one, the three of them took their gifts and went in together. And when they went in together there was nobody there but a twelve-day-old infant. Later on they understood. The Saviour speaks to every stage of life. The old hear the call to integrity and wisdom. The middle-aged hear the call to generativity and responsibility. And the young hear the call to identity and intimacy.

(Source: A World of Stories by William J Bausch)



Open Morning – St Colmcille's Girls School

An 'Open Morning will take place in St Colmcille's Girls' School on Monday 14th January from 9am – 10.45 am. All welcome.

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Girls School

Enrolment application forms for girls starting school in September 2019 are available from the school from 14th January completed forms to be returned before January 31st

Birth Certificate must accompany all forms

Enrolment St. Colmcille's Boy's School.

Application forms for enrolment for boys starting school in September 2019 are available from the school, 9.00am – 4.00pm daily. Completed forms must be returned by January 31st

Birth Certificate must accompany all forms



B.E. - BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

B.E. is a support group for those coping with the pain of loss of their life partner, through Death, Separation or Divorce. Few people are able to cope alone with the pain of loss. Do you find that you need more support than family and friends can provide? Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-knowledge – not weakness. This is a healing ministry, which helps to resolve the grief that goes with the end of a marriage or relationship. Coping effectively with bereavement is a skill we can all learn. A team, who are themselves widowed, separated or divorced share their experiences with you.

Next Coping Programme will commence on Wednesday 6th February 2018 for 7 Wednesday evenings, at 7.15pm in White Friars Community Centre, Aungier St., Dublin 2 For further information phone 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com.
www.beginningexperience.ie

