

To accept the challenge of being a true disciple of Jesus Christ, however, means making yourself available to whatever our Lord might call you to do in His service. It means opening your eyes, opening your hearts, and serving His children. It's our duty. Even for those who, through circumstances beyond their control, cannot do much more than they are doing now, they can always pray for those who are doing works of mercy. Pray for the members of the St. Vincent de Paul who reach out to the needy and the lost. Pray for the members of the Parish Bethany Team, who journey with those who are grieving. Pray for those in prison ministry and those advocating for the needs of the poor. Most of all, pray for those struggling to provide food and clothing, shelter and health care for their own families. Whether by deed, word, or prayer, it is always possible for us to practice these basic corporal works of mercy.

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Jim O'Neill	Sat 10.00am Sheila Maher
Mon 10.00am Priests of the Parish	Catherine O'Connor (MM)
Tues 8.00am Special Intention	
Tues 10.00am Mary Heffernan	Sat 6.30pm Richard & Eva Kearns
Wed 8.00am Health Intention	
Wed 10.00am Martin Walsh & Mary Clunne	Sun 8.30am Vera Barker
Thurs 8.00am Margaret O'Brien	
Thurs 10.00am Sheila & Michael Golden	Sun 11.00am Maria Coleman
& Ellen Horsefield	Sun 6.30pm Gerry & Kem Byrne
Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead	
Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead	

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am-11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon . Mon & Tues 9.20am
Muirne Seaghach, a 5th year student who helps with music at the 11:00 Irish Mass will address the congregation at the end of Mass. She plans to go to Kasama, Zambia June with 11 other students on an education project to help local women and girls and she will ask for a small donation to help make this project possible.



24 Hours for the Lord

This initiative was launched in Lent 2014 by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation. Dioceses throughout the world were invited to respond in their own way to this call for a day of prayer and reconciliation with an emphasis on the availability during this time of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In Dublin, 'Walking the Road of Reconciliation' and 'The Light Is On For You', two programmes on reconciliation were offered in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Pope Francis has asked that every diocese participate in '24 Hours for the Lord' 2016 as part of the Jubilee of Mercy on the weekend of 4/5 March. Sunday 6th March is the 4th Sunday of Lent and also Mother's Day and the Gospel is the story of the Prodigal.

To that end St. Colmcille's Swords will offer Confessions-the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 4th March from 6.30pm to 7.30pm as well as our usual Confessions on Saturday morning from 10.30am to 11.15am. During Confessions we will have our 'Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament' as normal followed by readings and Benediction from 11.15am to 11.30am

Next meeting for Bethany Bereavement Support Group is on Monday 29th February at 7.30pm in the Parochial House, Seatown Road

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



3rd Sunday of Lent

The Corporal Works of Mercy-cont'd

"Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor"

Newsletter Sunday 28th February 2016

Continuing these Lenten newsletters of 2016 and the 'Year of Mercy' I am highlighting the 14 works of Mercy. This newsletter will focus on the seventh and last – 'Bury the Dead'. Next week I will turn my attention to the 'Spiritual Works of Mercy'.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbours in their bodily needs", and they respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life.

- (1) Feed the hungry. (2) Give drink to the thirsty. (3) Clothe the naked. (4) Shelter the homeless. (5) Visit those in prison. (6) Comfort the sick. (7) Bury the dead.

Seventh: Bury the Dead

No doubt most of us make sure that our relatives and friends have a proper funeral service. But we also need to be aware of the needs of those who are grieving: struggling to "bury their dead" emotionally. Grieving can be a long and arduous process; shedding tears at a funeral rarely completes it. We need to help one another to truly bury our lost loved ones by letting go of them, entrusting them to the hands of our merciful Creator and Saviour. That takes friendship — a patient friendship that keeps on visiting the bereaved, keeps on helping them dry their tears, even when the grieving process takes many months or even years. This is a precious work of mercy: to help one another emotionally "bury the dead," entrusting them finally to the merciful Heart of the Redeemer. The Parish is blessed to have a wonderful Bethany Bereavement Group who assist in this process. (*See Parish Calendar for details*)

In this regard there is something very powerful about the Catholic Tradition of offering Masses for the eternal repose of souls. Contact your parish priest to arrange this for your own departed loved one or for that of a friend or relative.

When we come to the Holy Eucharist, we are actually closer to the faithful departed than at any other time in our lives. After all, whether in purgatory or in heaven, they are in the nearer presence of Jesus Christ, who is also uniquely present to us here on earth in the Blessed Sacrament. To be at "Holy Communion" with Him, therefore, is to be gathered up in a mysterious way into the whole "Communion of Saints" in this life and the life to come. Thus, we can make every Holy Eucharist a time of prayer for departed loved ones and encourage others to do the same.

At this point, after reading about all seven of the corporal works, some readers may be thinking, "It all sounds inspiring in principle, but what can I possibly do? I am already so weighed down with my own issues and responsibilities. I cannot possibly take on any more burdens. I cannot possibly do all these things you suggest!" Of course you can't, and no one is asking you to do so. Not *all* these things. Perhaps just two or three, as you have the opportunity.



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Year of Mercy – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Lk.6:36)

What is Mercy?

Mercy is the quality of care for another, willingness to make an effort, even at great sacrifice, to ease another's pain, readiness to forgive, eagerness to help.

Year of Mercy

The seventh paragraph of the Papal encyclical – ‘*Misericordiae Vultus*’ continues “Before his Passion, Jesus prayed with this psalm of mercy. Matthew attests to this in his Gospel when he says that, “when they had sung a hymn” (26:30), Jesus and his disciples went out to the Mount of Olives. While he was instituting the Eucharist as an everlasting memorial of himself and his paschal sacrifice, he symbolically placed this supreme act of revelation in the light of his mercy. Within the very same context of mercy, Jesus entered upon his passion and death, conscious of the great mystery of love that he would consummate on the Cross. Knowing that Jesus himself prayed this psalm makes it even more important for us as Christians, challenging us to take up the refrain in our daily lives by praying these words of praise: “for his mercy endures forever.”

Confirmation Mass

Next weekend the boys and girls and their families will be present at the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday 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.

The Parish Pastoral Collection.

This outdoor collection takes place after all Masses this weekend. Please support, as all funds go to the Parish

Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier is from Friday 4th March to Saturday 12th March inclusive. The Novena Prayer will be prayed at all Masses. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12th of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. It reached Ireland in 1712 when it was first celebrated in Mary's Lane Chapel in St Michan's Parish, Dublin. Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. 'Grace' is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favour or free gift from God. Christians often ask God for favours, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.



The Bible's Most Important People

Adam – The first man, created by God to have dominion over the earth. Adam's first act was to name the animals; then God created Adam's wife, Eve, as “a help mate for him” (Gen.2:18). God gave this couple the beautiful Garden of Eden to care for. There Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Eve. God had banned them from eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, but under Satan's influence, Eve picked it, ate it, and offered it to Adam who also ate. (Gen.3)

World Day of Prayer

Every year on or near the 1st Friday in March, Christians around the world (Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Evangelical) of all ages (women, men, young people and children), gather in small groups and large congregations, using the same basic form of worship, written by women of a different country each year, on a theme chosen by the World Day of Prayer International Committee. This year we pray with the women of Cuba around childhood and children under the theme: “**Receive children, Receive Me**”. The venue for our area is **St. Finian's, River Valley of Friday 4th March at 7.30pm**. All are welcome so please do come along!

PURE IN HEART educate, inspire, empower

PRAYER MEETING Every Thursday @7p.m. in 23, Merrion Sq. D.2 Includes Youth Mass, reflective prayer, music, food and friendship. AGES: 18-35. Tel. 662 9543 e-mail: ask@pureinheartireland.com, www.pureinheartireland.com.

The Irish Cancer Society's Volunteer Driver Service is available to patients attending the Dublin hospitals (excluding Beaumont) for chemotherapy treatment. This service is door to door (home to hospital and back) and completely free to the patient. So if you are having trouble getting to and from your chemotherapy treatments then please speak to your oncology team or call the Irish Cancer Society on 01 2310 522 / 01 2310 566.

Meals on Wheels Drivers needed

Do you have an hour to spare each week. We are looking for drivers to deliver meals to people in the Swords area around mid-day. The role is purely voluntary, unpaid. Please contact Paul Mc Cormack on Ph: 0857232825

A Date for your Diary

All Ministers of the Word and the Eucharist are invited to a reflection given by Fr. Paddy Boyle on **Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm** in St. Colmcille's. I would really appreciate if you could make this gathering- it will also be used to arrange the Easter Timetable.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

Mary Doyle
Joseph McGuire

Glaasmore Park
Seatown Terrace



We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:
Nathan Michael Broderick, Everlie Diane Leavy, Teagan Clara Ryan Cox
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