

It is not by chance that Nazareth means 'she who preserves', like Mary who, as the Gospel tells us, 'treasured all these things in her heart'. From then on, whenever there is a family that preserves this mystery, even if it should be at the outer reaches of the world, the mystery of the Son of God is at work. And He comes to save the world. **Fr. Michael Carey**

Church of the Visitation Drynam The Visitation of the BVM

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am/11.00am(Irish)& 12 noon (No weekday Mass)
Fr Peter and the Drynam Pastoral Team wish you every blessing for this Jubilee Year of Mercy 2016, Today we will start with a cup of tea for everyone after Mass, please join us!



Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Dan Murphy	Fri 10.00am Dec members of Black Family
Mon 10.00am Valerie Warren	Sat 10.00am Jean Brown
Tues 8.00am David English	
Tues 10.00am Kathleen Doyle	Sat 6.30pm Brian O'Connor
Tues 6.30pm Bridget & John McNulty	Sun 8.30am Paddy, Josie & Molly McGuirk
Wed 8.00am Holy Souls	Sun 11.00am Frances Grace
Wed 10.00am Arthur Agnew	Sun 6.30pm Kathleen Coleman
Thurs 8.00am Anthony Dunne	
Thurs 10.00am Barlte & Lil Weston	
Paddy McCarthy	
Fri 8.00am Eamon McGrane	

Prayer at the start of the year.

Lord, I sometimes wonder where I am going and what is the meaning of my life?
I wonder especially what the New Year holds for me.
Will it bring sorrow, success or failure, life or death?
But then I remember that you came on earth: and that you still travel the road of life with me.

And so I say to my soul:

Go out into the darkness, and put your hand in the hand of Christ your Brother;
That will be better than a light, and safer than a known path.



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The title of today's feast means the showing. It originally referred to the self disclosure of Jesus which took place at his baptism when the public side of his mission began. Later it became associated with the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles in the persons of the wise men or Magi in the Western Church, although it retains its original baptismal character in the Orthodox Church. A third event connected with this theme is also associated with today's feast, namely, when Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana as the first of the signs which would show who he was.



Reflection

Christianity has been described as a revealed religion. This idea suggests that God has acted in history and so certain historical events have a deeper significance. This is true of the three events which we remember today: the arrival of the wise men, the baptism of the Lord in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana. Each of these events has its place in the overall design of God that God's loving plan for humanity would be made known and responded to.

(Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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Second Sunday of Christmas

Jesus chose to come to the world as part of a family

"The Word was made flesh and lived among us"

Newsletter Sunday 3rd January 2016



This Sunday is the second Sunday of Christmas, so as a Parish Community we are still celebrating the Feast of Christmas, which last 12 days. The Pope in reflecting on this had the following to say, which I think is quite lovely and easily readable as much of the Pope's thoughts are:

"The family is the "great gift that the Lord has given to the world ever since the beginning, when he entrusted to Adam and Eve the mission of multiplying and filling the earth; the gift that Jesus confirmed and sealed in His Gospel".

The incarnation of the Son of God, which opens a new chapter in the universal history of man and woman. "And this new beginning occurs within a family, in Nazareth. He could have come spectacularly, or as a warrior, an emperor... No – he came as the son of a family, in a family", he emphasised.

God chose to be born "in a human family, that He Himself had formed. He created this family in a remote village in the outer reaches of the Roman Empire. Not in Rome, the capital of the Empire, not in a great city, but in an almost invisible and somewhat notorious periphery. This is even noted in the Gospel, almost as if it were a turn of phrase: 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'. Perhaps, in many parts of the world, we too still speak in this way when we hear the name of certain peripheral areas of large cities. And yet, it was precisely there, in the outskirts of the great Empire, that there began the most holy and good story of Jesus among mankind".

"Jesus chose to remain in the periphery for thirty years, during which there is no mention of miracles or healing, of preaching, of crowds who run after him. In Nazareth, everything seems to happen 'normally', according to the habits of a pious and hard-working family of Israelites. ... The Gospels, in their sobriety, say nothing of Jesus' adolescence and leave this task to our affectionate imaginings. Art, literature and music have followed the path of the imagination. Certainly, it is not difficult to imagine how much mothers could learn from Mary's tender care for her Son! And how much fathers could benefit from the example of Joseph, a righteous man, who dedicated his life to supporting and defending his wife and child – is family – through difficult times. To say nothing of how much the young could be encouraged by the adolescent Jesus in understanding the necessity and beauty of cultivating their deepest vocation, and of having great dreams".

"Every Christian family – as Mary and Joseph did – must first welcome Jesus, listen to Him, speak with Him, shelter Him, protect Him, grow with Him; and in this way, make the world better. Let us make space in our heart and in our days for the Lord. This is what Mary and Joseph did, and it was not easy: how many difficulties they had to overcome! It was not a false or unreal family. The family of Nazareth calls to us to rediscover the vocation and the mission of the family, of every family. And so what happened in those thirty years in Nazareth can also happen to us: making love, not hate, normal; mutual help common, instead of indifference and hostility.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – “Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us ”

Happy New Year

On behalf of myself, Fr. Peter Fr. Pat, the Parish Sisters; the Parish Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council and the Drynam Pastoral Team, I'd like to wish the parishioners of St. Colmcille's, Swords and Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam a peaceful and happy New Year

CHRISTMAS TREE: A SIGN AND REMINDER OF DIVINE LIGHT

"God became man and came among us to dispel the shadows of sin, bringing His divine light to humanity. This highest of lights, symbolised and recalled by the Christmas tree, has not only shown no sign of dimming through the passing of the centuries and the millennia, but rather continues to shine upon us and to illuminate every person who comes into the world, especially in moments of uncertainty and difficulty. Jesus Himself declared, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life'. ... And, the attempts made through the ages to extinguish the light of God, to replace it with the glare of illusion and deceit, have heralded episodes of tragic violence against mankind. This is because the attempt to cancel the name of God from the pages of history results in distortion, in which even the most beautiful and noble words lose their true meaning".

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. Thank you to all who have returned their dues envelopes

Christmas in Swords/Drynam

The Christmas Ceremonies, went very well. I want to thank all involved and all who helped make Christmas a beautiful, uplifting and spiritual occasion



Feast of the Epiphany

This feast day is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times are:

St. Colmcille's:

Tuesday 5th Jan (Vigil) at 6.30pm. Wednesday 6th Jan 8.00am and 10.00am

Our Lady of the Visitation – Drynam

Wednesday 6th Jan 9.20am



Planned Giving

New Planned Giving/ Family Offering envelopes are now ready for collection at the Parish Office, Parochial House, Seatown Road

Parish Office

The Parish Office will re-open tomorrow Monday 4th January

A New Year's Blessing

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year,
we thank you for your gift of time.

Let us embrace time as Mary did,
as the experience of the unfolding of your plan of
salvation.

We measure time with calendars and watches.
You experience it as an ever-present “now.”

Bless our ordered lists of weeks and months,
of holy days and holidays, of feast and fasts,
and all our special days of remembering.

Please bless these instruments with which we
measure time.
Let them remind us that you are the master of time
as we dedicate this New Year to you.

Lord, bless this New Year, each of its days and nights.
Bless us with happy seasons and healthy lives.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of 2016
Grant that it will be a year of love and peace. Amen.



Children learn what they live

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If they live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If they live with ridicule, they learn to be shy.
If they live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If they live with tolerance, they learn to be patient.
If they live with encouragement, they learn to have confidence.
If they live with praise, they learn to appreciate.
If they live with fairness, they learn what justice is.
If they live with security, they learn to trust.
If they live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If they live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love and God in the world.

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:
Cara Dee Rogan, Clodagh Charlotte Whelan



Parish Holiday to Vienna & Salzburg - Monday 27 June – Saturday 2 July
2016 Cost: €895.00 per person sharing. Contact the Parish Office for further