

Archdiocese of Dublin - Faith For Life Course

This course is an Adult Faith Development Course for those who are searching or seeking to deepen their faith. The course will run over 4 weekends in 2017: 1st/2nd April, 20-21st May, 16th/17th September & 4th/5th November, in SsPeter & Paul Parochial House, Balbriggan. The course explores ways in which we might integrate our faith and life in a reflective way and is being run in Balbriggan over 4 weekends with a couple of local group meetings in between. However, it is important that people can attend ALL the weekends. Participants are asked to write a short summary of their learning after each weekend and a certificate will be awarded after the course has been completed. The cost is €200. For more information please contact Peter Siney, Co-ordinator of Adult Faith Development Phone: 089 461 4226 Email: peter.siney@dublindiocese.ie or Office for Evangelisation & Ecumenism, Dublin Diocese 8373732

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Agnes O'Flynn

Mon 10.00am Pat Dunne

Tues 8.00am Teresa Cunningham

Tues 10.00am Mildred Dinnigan

Wed 8.00am Christina Kealy

Wed 10.00 Patricia Hennelly

Thurs 8.00am Kevin Murphy

Thurs 10.00am Michael Greeney

Thurs 6.30pm Ellen Green

Fri 8.30am Patrick Larmon

Fri 10.00am John & Catherine Wade

Sat 10.00am Dec members of Geraghty & McGreavy Families

Sat 6.30pm Bernadette, Jim & Anna McConville

Sun 8.30am William & Bridget Donnelly

Sun 11.00am Babs Gargan

Sun 6.30pm Paul McDermott
Clare Leavy

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

Mass Times for Drynam: Sun, 10.00am, 11.00am (Irish Mass) & 12 noon, Mon & Tues 9.20am

Mass in Drynam on Friday for St Patrick's day will be at 9:20AM.

Second Sunday of Lent

Every so often, we catch a glimpse of the "something more" that God has in store for us. These fleeting experiences are to be treasured: the birth of my first child, falling in love, a sense of "being held" by God's presence. Such experiences may help us approach the Transfiguration. Like all transcendent experiences, it is fleeting and yet it etches a memory and leaves a longing. What should we do? Practice listening to him. Be not afraid. We cannot always be "on the mountain" and yet what happens on the heights can help us on the lowlands of the everyday.

Prayer - Lord, listening sounds so easy and yet is such hard work! Guide us as we listen to your Son, whose word is live, who is himself the Way, the Truth and the Life. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

Feast of St. Patrick

Friday next 17th March is the Feast of St. Patrick, a holy day of obligation.

Masses are as follows. **Swords:** 6.30pm (Vigil-Thursday) and 8.30am and 11.00am (Friday).

Drynam: 9.20am (Friday)



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

2nd Sunday of Lent

The Transfiguration

"It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me"

Newsletter Sunday 12th March 2017



Have you ever seen someone transfigured before you? It might sound like a crazy question but think about it. Think of someone you know well and imagine that one day suddenly you realise something about them, something wonderful and beautiful. They seem to have changed right in front of your eyes and you notice a quality in them that you hadn't seen before. And what about nature? Do you have a place in nature that is special for you? A place where you feel rooted to the earth? Can you recall a moment that you realised or remembered just how awesome and beautiful creation really is? It is a 'wow' moment. You pick up a leaf and notice the detail, the design, how delicate it is. God is in all of it.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis urges everyone on the planet to embrace or reawaken a new sense of awe and wonder for creation. We are invited to see the interconnectedness of all things and reflect on how interdependent we all are with nature. He refers to this as 'an integral ecology'. We are urged to see and reflect on the glory of God present in all of creation. Ask yourself this question today: 'Have I lost my sense of awe and wonder amidst so much noise in my life?'

The Gospel of Creation is calling to us now, into these 'wow' moments, into the same wonder and awe that the disciples must have felt in the gospel. The disciples want to stay with Jesus on the mountain, and who can blame them? It was a beautiful moment; who would want it to end? But they must leave: 'Stand up, do not be afraid ...' (Mt 17:7). Jesus' path is not one on which we can remain in our comfort zones. It is a challenging way and there is a cost involved.

We hear the call to act on climate justice everywhere but now we need to really listen and to take urgent action. Yes, it involves making changes to our lifestyles; yes, it involves campaigning our government, which has been slow to act on this, one of the most pressing of global issues. Ireland is one of the biggest polluters per capita – more than the UK and more than China! This is not a statistic to be proud of. If we reflect on the awesomeness of nature and the interconnections between all things, this has the potential to move us into action in solidarity with the people of Honduras. We start with ourselves and little by little we join the fight for justice.

When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all his creatures and to worship him in union with them ... The Spirit of Life swells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him. (Laudato Si', 87).
(Source: Trocaire Lenten Resources for 2017). **Fr. Michael Carey**

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased

RCIA – Rite of Christian initiation of Adults

Our three candidates (*Iutina Amulia; Raven Amulia and Lucas Abidoeye*) were at the Pro-Cathedral last Sunday afternoon to celebrate with the Archbishop, the 'Rite of Election of Catechumens for the Easter Sacraments and Recognition of Candidates for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church'. It was a beautiful ceremony and there were 49 participants from all over the Dublin Diocese. Together we have all begun the season of Lent, a period of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is a time of prayer and fasting, a time of deepening conversion, a time of passing over from sin to grace, from slavery to freedom, from death to new life in Christ.



Parish Holiday-Rome, the Eternal City

Thursday 28th September – Tuesday 3rd October

We will be staying in Hotel Domus Carmelitana 3* which is centrally located in Rome and close to the Vatican.

The holiday will be led by Mgr. John Fitzpatrick (I will be travelling myself). **Highlights include:** The Vatican and Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. You will have time too to observe daily life in the "Old City" while sipping coffee at a pavement Café and in the evenings dine with the Romans.

Cost: €799.00 per person sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. This price is available for deposit paid by 24th March

Extras: baggage fee (currently €50 – 15kg)* Insurance: €36 (66 yrs+: double insurance premium applies)* Single room supplement €30 per person per night (limited availability)* Public transport ticket valid for 3 days, use on metros trams buses currently €18* Tourist tax €4 per person per night payable locally on departure.* Entrance fees where applicable. This holiday is organised through **MAP Travel** 36 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1. **Tel: (01) 8783111**

MAP Travel is licensed and bonded with the Commission for Aviation Regulation Licence No. T.A. 0474. **Deposit €250 per person.** Can be booked through Colette at the Parish Office or direct with MAP

Crosscare Youth Services Collection

The annual collection for Crosscare youth Services -Social Support Agency of the Archdiocese of Dublin will be at all Masses next weekend 18th /19th March. It will replace the Share collection.



We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Aleeah Mae O'Hara, Noah Joseph Graves, Achile Camara, Kade Shakaya Camara



Time for Yourself week of GUIDED PRAYER 26th - March-1st April, Parishes of Swords, Rivervalley and Brackenstown

This is a way of making a directed retreat in the midst of our busy day. The retreat is for everyone and the structure is simple.

It begins on Sunday evening with a group introduction to the format of the week; some explanation of Praying With Scripture; some time in prayer together; meeting your personal guide; a chance to ask any questions...and share some light refreshments together!!

Each day you are asked to spend time reflecting on a particular scripture passage, letting it speak to you in your present life situation, and then coming to the parish each day to talk about it with a trained Prayer Guide for half an hour.

These one-to-one sessions run from Monday to Friday at a time convenient to you. The week ends with everyone coming together to share their experiences.

First Meeting ; Sunday 26th March in Brackenstown Pastoral Centre at 6.30pm

Morning Sessions 10.30am - 12.30 pm in St Colmcille's, Parochial House

Afternoon Sessions : 2.30pm - 4.30pm in St Finian's Rivervalley

Evening sessions; 6.30pm - 8.30pm St. Cronan's, Brackenstown.

Closing session ; Saturday 1st April St Finian's, Rivervalley at 7.30pm

To take part please fill in and return the Guided Prayer leaflet, which you can get from the back of the Church or the Parish Office by Monday 13th March. Cost: Offering by envelope...



100 Years of Our Lady of Fatima –

The Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima blessed by Pope Francis on the occasion of the jubilee and centenary year (Nov 27th 2016 to Nov 26th 2017) will visit the church of "The Sacred Heart", **Yellow Walls, Malahide on Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 7.30pm.** A plenary indulgence will be granted on those who will participate in the Centenary celebration.

Pope Francis blessed 6 pilgrim statues of Our Lady of Fatima. One to travel to each continent (two for America). Re-echoing the appeal for prayer and preparation for world peace and to promote the sanctity of family life



The First Annual Retreat and Conference for the Catholic Grandparents Association will take place on Wednesday 26th – 27th April in the Dominican Retreat Centre, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24. Theme: "Helping our Children and Grandchildren to know, love and share God in these highly secularised times "through lively discussions, workshops and resources with speakers: Fr. Enda Barry, Fr. Benny McHale, Mrs Kate Liffey and Catherine Wiley. Price is €160 per person (single room) with full board and €120 non-residential attendance for two days meals included. Further info contact Connie on 098 24877 or email: catholicgrandparents@gmail.com All welcome.

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up **this** weekend at all Masses