

- The Gospel of life is at the heart of the message of Jesus. He came that we may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). The Gospel challenges us to work for a world in which the dignity and beauty of every human life are respected.
- Every human life is precious, every human life is beautiful, every human life is sacred. Choose life.
- Let us work for a society in which all are valued as created, loved by God, redeemed by Christ; not for their fame, or power, or what they own but for their intrinsic worth. It is a call to rediscover the truth that our deepest joy and happiness comes from the knowledge that we are all loved by God from the very beginning, and that by trusting in God's love, through our setbacks and difficulties "our own joy will be complete" (John 15:11).
- The child in the womb is not a 'potential' life, but a human life with potential.

Today's 2nd reading obviously gave me some courage – "our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active" (1 Jn. 3:18). For all the above and so much more, in my opinion the keeping of the 8th amendment in our Constitution is vitally important. To get rid of it is too radical. In my opinion our Constitution should reflect a principle that all life is valuable. The amendment *may* need nuancing to reflect certain issues, but the proposed deletion of it - just getting rid of it with the well - known, detailed and much discussed consequences is in my opinion a step to far! **Fr Michael Carey**

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Gillian & Alice Webb

Mon 10.00am Barney & Phyllis O'Rourke

Tues 8.00am Ann Carlon

Tues 10.00am Michael Griffin

Wed 8.00am John Boles

Wed 10.00am Patricia Fitzpatrick

Thurs 8.00am Angela Beausang

Thurs 10.00am Monica & James Reidy

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

Sat 10.00am Molly & Stephen O'Grady
& deceased members

Albert Fleming (1st An)

Sun 6.30pm Paddy Mahon

Sun 8.30am Ann Yorke

Sun 11.00am Billy Harrington

Sun 6.30pm Josie, Billy, Dick & Paddy Ryan

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

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

There will be a Drynam Pastoral Team Meeting on Tuesday 1st May at 8:00PM.

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. Next residential weekend will be held **25th – 27th May 2018**, in **Dominican Retreat House, Tallaght, Dublin 24** For further information please contact 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com. www.beginningexperience.ie

Inter-Parish Picnic: The three Parishes of Swords are planning a Parish Picnic on Sunday 10th June. Stewards are required - if you are available to help on the day please leave your name and phone number in the parish office. *Thank you*

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378:

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Well – how are you voting?

“O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders”

Newsletter Sunday 29th April 2018



I have been struggling and praying as to when would be the appropriate time on which I should say or write 'something' about the upcoming referendum. I'd like to think that my prayers are answered this weekend when one considers the Liturgy of the Word. The second reading from the first letter of St. John speaks about conscience, where 'we cannot be condemned by our own conscience....because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants', and the Gospel reminds us of our **inter connectedness**, where the Lord Jesus is the 'vine' and we are the branches and how cut off from him we 'can do nothing'. There has been much written and said by the Church and different commentators in relation to abortion and the upcoming referendum. I have selected a few quotes for this newsletter. It is important to note that the Church's teaching is not 'made up' but rather is a reflection of the life, words and deeds of the Lord and of Gospel values. In that sense what the Church says is what Jesus would say! What the Church says is NOT political or ideological.

- The Christian message is a message which respects life and respects every human life, from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and at every moment in between
- Some people argue that the right to life of the unborn should be a matter of personal choice on the part of the mother. Others argue that, while they are opposed to abortion as a general principle, they believe that there are some children to whom the right to life does not apply either because they have been diagnosed with a serious medical condition or because they have been conceived as a result of rape. We wish to state our firmly held belief, based on reason as well as faith, that there is **no such thing as a human life without value**. We accept, of course, that death is part of our human condition. What we reject is the suggestion that any person can decide when it is time for another person to die.
- Quite apart from the numbers of lives that were saved as a result of Article 40.3.3, expectant parents who experience a crisis pregnancy have been **culturally supported** in making the decision in favour of life and in avoiding a decision which many of them may have regretted afterwards. This cultural support was not simply in the fact that Irish society had made a public statement of principle about the right to life, but also because the **structures of society**, including healthcare facilities, were not deployed, as they are in many countries, to promote or facilitate the taking of life as an appropriate social response to crisis pregnancy.
- Abortion is primarily a spiritual/moral issue rather than a political one. It violates justice, and therefore the command to love one another.

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.*



1st Saturday of the Month

Saturday 5th May is the first Saturday of May. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am followed by Confessions

Sacrament of Confirmation - 2018

Over the past fortnight, the Parish celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation for the boys and girls. We had two wonderful ceremonies and the boys and girls and their parents and families were delighted. The Church was at its best and looked lovely. For that I particularly thank God's housekeepers and the flower ladies (Marie Brophy; Martha Gallagher and Barbara Sweeney). On both occasions the Sacrament was administered by Bishop Ray Field and he presided at a beautiful and prayerful ceremony. The Bishop gives each girl and boy the time to enjoy the moment and a memory that they will never forget.

BNS – Thursday 19th April

Congratulations to the boys from St. Colmcille's BNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Ciara Brangan (Principal) Ms. Ciara Reynolds, Mr Diarmuid Connell and Ms. Angela Noone The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The 5th Class boys sang very well, so well done boys and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms Emma Taylor; Ms Myra Noonan and Mr Cormac O' Boyle (Class Teachers) and Ms. Blaithin White (Choir Director) and organist Mr. John Burke. I thank also Mrs. Veronica McDermott, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school

GNS – Thursday 26th April

Congratulations to the girls from St. Colmcille's GNS. I want to thank the great work of their teachers Ms. Karen Burke Logue (Principal) and Ms. Aideen Lineen and Ms. Robyn O'Brien (Class Teachers). The day itself involves plenty of preparation in the lead up and the 'subject' is taught excellently. The 5th Class girls sang very well, so well done girls and congratulations to all involved in the music - Ms. Phil Cushen (Conductor) Ms. Ailbhe Moyne (Class Teacher) and organist Ms. Orla Daly and Ms. Aoibheann McMonagle (musician). I thank also Mr. David Begg, Chairperson of the Board of Management and all the Board members for their dedication and support of the school.

World Meeting of Families (WMOF)

I want to thank most sincerely Betty McDonald; Kathleen Power and Sandrine Clerambourg of the PPC who spoke so eloquently at all the Masses last weekend about the upcoming WMOF and about the 'conversation' programme that is happening in the three Swords parishes

Swords Parish Bethany Bereavement Support Group.

Have you suffered the loss of someone special in your life through bereavement? Are you suffering the pain of that loss? Would you like to talk to a trained bereavement support person who will listen and help you understand your grief and distress? You are welcome to attend our bereavement support meetings on the second and last Mondays of every month at The Parochial House, Seatown Road, Swords. Start time 7.30pm. This is a free, confidential service and is offered to all Fingal residents." Date of next meeting: 30th April Further information please phone Terri 8403243".

World Meeting of Families

Pope Francis has chosen Dublin to host the 2018 World Meeting of Families. In getting ready, we are continuing our parish conversations on what family means to us. We will also look at what Pope Francis says about the importance of family in the life of the church which he shared with us in Amoris Laetitia. The conversations will take place in each of the three parishes.



Conversation 4:

Tuesday 1st May in St. Colmcille's Parochial House, Seatown Road from 2pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday 1st May in St. Cronan's Pastoral Centre on from 7.30pm - 9:00pm

Thursday 3rd May in St. Finian's, River Valley from 10:30am - 12 noon

These conversations are for everybody to share their experience of family. Please come along and share your story - after all we as a parish, are a family of families!

Towards the Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Constitution

Choose Life 2018 is a weekly newsletter www.dublindiocese.ie/choose-life-2018. There are some copies on the table at the back of the Church.

Richie's Story "The conversations surrounding the Eighth Amendment are largely devoted to dealing with the rights of the mother and the unborn child. The rights and concerns of the father are rarely talked about. "As a man it can be difficult to discuss the idea of abortion when it is so commonly referred to as a 'woman's right'. Men can often feel like they should remain silent on the issue. I feel it is important for everyone in this country to get involved with the discussion which is ultimately a discussion about human rights and the value of human life itself. "The Eighth Amendment is a life-saving amendment. It gives equal protection to both the baby, and their mother, in law. It is the reason there are tens of thousands of people alive and in our country today – because we don't have local access to abortion in Ireland. It gives women and couples time to really think the decision through. "Nowadays we can't deny the scientific facts about the development of the baby in the womb. We know a baby's heart starts beating at 21 days and characteristics such as eye and hair colour are defined at the moment of our creation. For me, there is no denying that this is a human life and deserves to be protected. "The unborn child is completely dependent on us and our laws to protect them. Abortion introduces a culture where we no longer value the life of every human being equally. It discriminates against the most vulnerable in society – a group of real people who rely on us and our constitution to protect them. That is what the Eighth Amendment does. It protects each and every one of us." *Richie Fenton, 28, is an architect from Co. Waterford*

Ewe Thina: We Walk God's Way - Join other young adults (20's & 30's)] for

reflective hikes around Dublin Area. Monthly event. The next hike will be Sunday 29th April for the Howth Cliff Walk. We will meet outside the parish Church in Howth at 12.30pm. Contact st.pauls@dublindiocese.ie and www.facebook.com/wewalkgodsway

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Sienna Flynn, Rory Sean Quigley, Emily Ann O'Connor, Samantha Bella Maybituin

