

Marriage

The family is natural and basic. It responds to the need we have for each other. At the heart of the family is the love between husband and wife, a love which is natural and basic and which needs to be permanent. Although there is in the Church a Sacrament of marriage, religion did not invent marriage. It is not the preserve of Jew or Christian; it is the heritage of all humanity.

It is clear that the most important and characteristic feature of Christ's teaching on marriage was his insistence on its permanence, on the life-long commitment of husband and wife to each other. "What God has united, man must not divide". He was not formulating a set of precepts to impose on married people; instead he focussed on what he saw as the given reality. He saw what human love is and can be, and teaches how marriage can best express that love and prevent it from being spoiled or abused. (Source: *To be a Pilgrim – Cardinal Basil Hume*)

Fr. Michael Carey

Intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Cecil, Joan & Lynn Murphy

Joseph, Annie, Charles & Eveline Sweetman

Mon 10.00am Kevin & Annie Wynne

Sat 6.30pm Peggy & Johnny Reid

Tues 8.00am Special Intention

Tues 10.00am John Smith

Wed 8.00am Pat O'Reilly

Sun 8.30am Nancy & Jack Doyle &

Dan & Sheila Doyle

Wed 10.00am Special Intention

Sun 11.15am Gerard, Bernadette & Imelda

Thurs 8.00am Special Intention

Donnolly

Thurs 10.00am Frances Geddis

Fri 8.00am Special Intention

Fri 10.00am Kathleen & Joseph Coleman

At our Masses next weekend we also remember: Larry Mulvihill, Jim Clarke, Nancy Dolan

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

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

St. Vincent de Paul will have their monthly collection outside the church next Sunday.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently:

James McGuinness

Formerly of Swords

Michael Reid

Oaklands Park

Nancy Savage

Rathbeale Road



Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer will take place in St Colmcille's Church on **Friday 1st March at 7.30pm.**

All are welcome, this year the prayer has been written by the women of Slovenia with the theme being 'Come - everything will be ready'



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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What human love is and can be

“Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me”

Newsletter Sunday 17th February 2019



Dear Friends,

In the diocese of Dublin, at the time of the feast of St. Valentine, we traditionally remember the work of ACCORD *Dublin*, the diocesan agency that supports marriage and family life.

Almost 90% of couples marrying in the churches of the diocese of Dublin in 2018 attended an ACCORD *Dublin* marriage preparation course. Experienced facilitators work with couples to equip them to create a solid foundation for their life together, the well-being of their family and their understanding of the Sacrament of marriage.

The ACCORD *Dublin* schools programme, delivered within the Department of Education guidelines, gives young people the tools for discernment to enable them to build strong and positive relationships within the family, with friends, and eventually with spouses. In 2018, 27,725 primary and secondary school students benefitted from this programme in 344 schools.

ACCORD *Dublin* was an active and valued participant in the World Meeting of Families this year, with 14 members actively participating in workshops, and 30 more assisting on a stand.

In 2018 ACCORD *Dublin's* marriage and relationship counselling services cared for more than 2,000 people. These services are provided free where necessary. No one is turned away because they cannot pay.

The Report of the Synod of Bishops on Marriage and the Family noted, “When a husband and wife are having trouble in their relationship, they must be able to count on the help and guidance of the Church. Experience shows that with proper help and reconciliation, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, a large percentage of marriage crisis are satisfactorily overcome”.

This is the vital ministry of ACCORD. It can only be carried out through your generosity. I ask you to be generous in your response.



Yours very Sincerely
+Diarmuid Martin
Archbishop of Dublin

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*



Confirmation Classes

I welcome this weekend the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Saturday Vigil Mass as part of our Parish initiative as they journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. We anticipate their presence and look forward to seeing them and their families and praying with them.

Scoil an Duinnigh

Next Tuesday 19th February, the girls and boys will celebrate the Ceremony of Light as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This will take place in the Church of Our Lady of the Visitation in Drynam at 7.00pm.

Take up something for Lent

You will see the notice in the newsletter concerning the reading of 'Rejoice and be Glad'. I do encourage you to investigate this initiative. A lot of what the Pope writes is very good but we don't have the time or get the chance to explore it in some depth. What is proposed by the Parish for this coming Lent is very gentle. Please do consider participating.

Child Protection – Garda Vetting

Over the Past Year the PPC and Sr. Margaret has done excellent work in ensuring compliance with Diocesan Norms and the Law of the Land. To date 104 volunteers and Ministers have engaged with the process of Garda Vetting. The PPC has decided that the cut-off date for existing volunteers and Ministers is to be February 28th 2019. If for whatever reason you have not begun the process of Garda Vetting then the only conclusion to be drawn is that you do not wish to continue as a volunteer of a member of the Parish Ministry Team

Today's Second Collection

The annual collection for ACCORD, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family will take place at all Masses this weekend 16th/17th February. The collection will replace the usual Share collection

Accord

ACCORD's counselling service is based on clients' needs and not on their ability to pay. Counselling can be arranged by contacting us (to find your local centre please visit www.accord.ie) The centre secretary will take contact details and then arrange an appointment to see a counsellor. Our service is totally confidential.

ACCORD is a well known, respected and experienced agency that has in excess of 50 years experience working with couples and individuals supporting them in their Marriages and Relationships.

ACCORD offers a professional counselling service throughout the island of Ireland, facilitating couples and individuals to explore, reflect upon and work to resolve difficulties that arise in their marriages and relationships. ACCORD counsellors are very experienced in working with individuals and couples on a wide range of issues and difficulties that arise in their relationships i.e. communication, intimacy, sexual issues, infidelity, problem behaviours, conflict, domestic violence, health, family issues, finances, loss.



Take up Something for Lent

This year for Lent the Parish has decided to read and discuss Pope Francis's book, 'Rejoice and be Glad', we will do this over 5 weeks. This will take the format of a book club where you read a chapter at home and meet as a group to discuss it the next week. Why not give it a try!!

For more information together with guidelines for discussion and tips for reading the book, come along to our introduction session on **Thursday 28th February** in the Parochial House at 2.30pm. Books will be supplied and tea and coffee will be served

Rejoice and be Glad!



Mass for Healing with the Sacrament of the Sick

The parish celebrated Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick last Saturday morning at 11.00am. The weekend was the celebration of World Day of the Sick, connected to the liturgical memorial of the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes on Monday 11th February. It was a lovely celebration and I thank all who attended. It seemed to have touched people, which is all that one can ask for. Those in attendance received the Sacrament and at this Mass, we prayed for and remembered all our parishioners who are sick and/or housebound I want to thank the Liturgy Team for arranging a beautiful liturgical space and the welcome refreshments after the Mass. If anyone would like myself or Fr. John to visit a sick or elderly relative at home please let us know, or leave information with Colette.

The Sacrament of the Sick

This sacrament proclaims God's immediate and saving presence, that God will act in a saving way within this very sickness, that God will make this illness redemptive; he will turn it 'unto good' on some way or another. Your illness may heal other wounds-in the family perhaps, or draw out the generosity of relations or the goodness of neighbours. God will comfort the sick person, strengthen you and reach through the pain to enlighten the mind or change the heart. That's what we mean when we say that God will use the illness 'redemptively'

Anam Cara North Dublin the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding a Bereavement Information Evening on Wednesday 20th February at 7:20pm in the Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords. This is a free event and open to all bereaved parents. As Anam Cara, please RSVP to info@anamcara.ie before Tuesday 19th February or call 085 2888 888

Faithfest Teenagers

Join us on Friday 8 March for Faithfest from 6.00-9.30pm. in Holy Cross College, Clonliffe Road, Dublin 3. Faithfest aims to build spaces where teenagers have an experience of a peer community, explore faith, and encounter an experience of welcoming, belonging, discipleship, worship and prayer in a creative and fun atmosphere. All welcome.