

unknown in our lives. We may have witnessed death, we may have accompanied someone who is dying or prepared them for death, but at the moment of death we are always on our own. None of us has ever experienced ourselves the mystery of death. Without faith death is meaningless. Without faith death is the absolute end. But with faith in Jesus Christ death can be transformed.

Equally, just as none of us knows what death is like, none of us knows from human experience what comes after death. Artists and writers and painters have tried to grasp what the after life is like; but that is just their own impression. All we know for certain is that in death we encounter Jesus Christ, who is our judge, but who is the God of mercy who transforms us.

So remembering that we come from dust and return from dust should lead us not into morbid thoughts about death, but into hope. Hope is never abstract; faith leads to a hope that challenges the way we live. It challenges us to see what the things in life are that really matter and that endure. (Source: Flor McCarthy and Ash Wednesday homily by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in 2014).

Fr. Michael Carey

Mass intentions for Next Week

Mon 8.00am Richard Donnelly

Mon 10.00am Martin Devine

Tues 8.00am Noel Kirwan & Edward
& Mary Mitchell

Tues 10.00am Sheila Maher

Wed 8.00am Margaret Comber

Wed 10.00 Kevin Harford

Wed 7.30pm Jack, Catherine & Judy Howard

Thurs 8.00am Margaret O'Brien

Thurs 10.00am Kathleen McDonnell

Fri 8.00am Altar List of the Dead

Fri 10.00am Altar List of the Dead

Sat 10.00am Jacqueline Monaghan

Sat 6.30pm Larry Mulvihill

Sun 8.30am Kathleen & Ernest McMahon

Sun 11.00am Jenny & Isobel Byrne

Peter McQuillan (1st An)

Sun 6.30pm Donie, Jenny & Jean Stapleton

Mary Graham (1st An)

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

We will have a Fundraising meeting for the new church on Tuesday 28th at 7:30. Malcolm Kelly, Fundraising Director for the Archdiocese, will attend. We will also shortly be contacting all those who kindly volunteered their assistance in this project after our appeal at Mass on the 16th October last.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus had a way of speaking which unsettled and attracted. At the same time, the invitation not to worry at all, even about food or clothing seems, well, not so practical. God knows we need these things. Remember that the Jewish way is to set up startling extremes so that the true message stands out. What is that true message? It is a question of what we put first in lives. We recognise this by going back over recent choices and decisions – even simple observations, such as what to I devote time to? Jesus' teaching is to put the kingdom first and after that everything will find its just place.

Prayer - Jesus, you want us to be free. Help us to embrace your vision of true freedom, by seeking first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness. (Source: St. Paul's Missal)

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

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Goodness – that time already!

“The Lord became my protector”

Newsletter Sunday 26th February 2017

This Wednesday, 1st March is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is here already and like everything else these times, before you know it, it will be Easter.

With that in mind let all of us make a resolution to make **this Lent special**. On the one hand Lent is a period of intense preparation of candidates who are to be baptised this Easter. But this season is also a time for us **the faithful to renew our original baptismal commitment**.

The Sunday readings for Lent call to mind our initiation into Christ. The first and second Sunday's give an account of the Lord's temptation in the desert and his transfiguration. The third, fourth and fifth Sundays are the three great baptismal texts of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus and then we are in to Passion (Palm) Sunday.

Let us begin with Ash Wednesday – nature shows us that there is such a time as an opportune time. For instance, there is a time for planting and a time for reaping. This applies to our lives too. We too have our seasons because we are involved in the process of growth.

From a spiritual point of view, Lent is an opportune time for us. There is something about Lent that spurs us into action in the battle against evil. Maybe it is a picture of the sinless Jesus battling with Satan in the desert. Lent calls us to prayer, penance, and works of charity. In short, to a fuller living of the Christian life.

St. Paul in the reading on Ash Wednesday, reminds the Corinthians of the grace they have received when they accepted the Gospel. But he tells them that they will have received this in vain if they fall back into pagan ways. He urges them to make use of the present opportunity that is being given them. He says, 'Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation.' The Church applies these words to Lent. Even though prayer, penance, and almsgiving are always appropriate, they are especially appropriate during Lent. There is such a thing as 'a window of opportunity,' a moment of grace. Lent is a window of opportunity, a season of grace.

Lent is the Church's 'holy spring'. It is a time of penance and effort. But is it also a time of joy. It is like springtime. As we progress towards Easter the sun gets brighter and warmer. So, as we journey through Lent, our hope grows, our joy increases.

The Church uses two different formulae for the imposition of ashes. One is: "Remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return" and the other: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel".

The first formula recalls the fragility and precariousness of human existence and the inevitability of death. None of us has ever experienced death. Death is the ultimate



ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon – Lord I have come to believe that you are the Christ

Ash Wednesday – 1st March.

This is a day of fast and abstinence and the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Why do we put ash on our forehead? - Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" emphasises our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolises our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross. The work of our redemption will not be complete until we are raised from the dead, in resurrected bodies like His own and called to the eternal communion of heaven.



Lent - Ash Wednesday – 1st March.

The season of Lent begins this Ash Wednesday 1st March. The Masses on this day are 8.00am; 10.00am and **7.30pm** in St. Colmcille's and at 9.20am in Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynham.



World Day of Prayer

You are invited to World Day of Prayer on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm in St Cronan's Church, Brackenstown. This year's Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of the Philippines

Bethany Bereavement Support Group

Help is at hand. Bethany trained members are available to provide support to those grieving after the loss of a loved one. This is a free, confidential service. The Group meet on the second and last Monday of each month from 7.30 - 8.30 p.m. at the Parochial House, Seatown Road - Next Meeting 27th February. For further information please 'phone Mary 8402652 or Brid 086 6006397 after 6 p.m. Open to all Fingal Residents - You are most welcome to attend

We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Jackson Stephen O'Connor, Róise Marie Murphy, Alexander Rocco Frosina, Ronan Patrick Murphy, Ciara Thiparpar O'Neill, Abbey Ella o'Toole



Living Lent Daily

This Lent, foster a daily practice of spiritual calm where God is at the centre. *Living Lent Daily* is a daily e-mail series delivering fresh reflections based on the Scriptures of Lent. Sign up to receive the daily messages from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily> *Living Lent Daily* begins March 1, 2017.

Cardinal Desmond Connell – a short profile

Desmond Connell was born on 24 March 1926. His father, John Bernard Connell, a native of Moycullen Co Galway, was a civil servant who was a member of the Irish delegation to the Ottawa Conference of 1932 and was later appointed by Sean Lemass as Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of the Irish Sugar Company. His mother, Mary (née Lacy), was on duty as a telephonist at the General Post Office on Easter Monday 1916. The future Cardinal grew up on Dublin's Northside. He attended St Peter's National School Phibsborough and subsequently the Jesuit second level school, Belvedere College.

He was ordained by Archbishop John Charles McQuaid on 19 May 1951, In succession to Kevin McNamara Desmond Connell was appointed Archbishop of Dublin by the Holy See on 21 January 1988. He chose as his episcopal motto, *Secundum Verbum Tuum* (According to Thy Word) citing Luke 1:38.

He was created Cardinal by Pope John Paul II at the Consistory in Rome on 21 February 2001 and named Cardinal-Priest of S. Silvestro in Capite.

Desmond Connell was one of the cardinal electors who participated in the 2005 papal conclave that selected Pope Benedict XVI.

On 26 April 2004, Desmond Connell retired as archbishop, handing the diocese over to Archbishop Diarmuid Martin. He died on Tuesday 21st February

Lent 2017

There are several things on for Lent, all to be found on : <http://www.tarsus.ie/page-11/>. Each of these programmes has a poster and detailed information.

1. The Letter to the Hebrews, Lusk Pastoral Centre, starting on Tuesday, February 21 and continuing through Lent.

Poster and details here: <http://www.tarsus.ie/resources/2017/Lusk-Hebrews-2017.pdf>. Kieran O'Mahony

2. From Ashes to Light: The Lent Readings for Prayer and Preaching. Thursdays of Lent at 11.30 in the St Kevin's Oratory in the Pro-Cathedral. Kieran O'Mahony. There's Mass available just before and just after.

Topics, details etc. on a flyer: <http://www.tarsus.ie/resources/2017/Lent-Flyer-2017.pdf>.

3 From Ashes to Light: The Lent Readings for Prayer and Preaching. Thursdays of Lent at 7.30 pm in Gardiner's St Church. Kieran O'Mahony.

Topics, details etc. on a flyer: <http://www.tarsus.ie/resources/2017/Lent-Flyer-2017-SJ.pdf>.

4. During Lent, Fr Kieran O'Mahony OSA will talk on praying and exploring the **Lenten Gospels**, in the Parish Centre of St John the Evangelist Church, Greendale Road, Kilbarrack. The talks are entitled - The Woman at the Well, 15th March; the Raising of Lazarus, 29th March; the story of Jesus' Death, according to Matthew, 5th April. There will be plenty of time for discussion. The evenings will start with a cuppa at 7.30pm and the talks begin at 8.00pm. Donation accepted. In addition, a talk on the work of Trócaire will be held on Wednesday 22nd March. All are welcome.



St Mary's Pro-Cathedral - Change in Sunday Mass Times

Sunday Mass Schedule from 5th March 9.30a.m., 11.00a.m., 12.45p.m. and 6.30p.m.