

After his arrest, he was taken before the council of priests and elders and condemned as a blasphemer, because he had called himself the Son of God. Only the Roman governor – Pontius Pilate, had the power to put anyone to death, so the priests then brought him to Pilate and said that he had been stirring up the people to rebel against Roman rule. Pilate ordered him to be scourged and crucified and these orders were carried out immediately. He was nailed to a cross on the hill of Calvary just outside Jerusalem; and there after hours of indescribable agony he died

To his followers it seemed to be the end of all their hopes and dreams. Only one of the twelve stood by the cross, together with Mary his mother and a few other faithful women. The rest all ran away and hid themselves. (Source: *Jesus of Nazareth – Veritas Publications 1978*)

Fr. Michael Carey Adm

Mass Intentions for this coming week: St Colmcille's:

Mon 8.00 am People of the parish

Mon 10.00am Thomas Maher

Tues 8.00 John Fitzsimons

Tues 10.00am Oliver Morton
Fiona Brennan

Wed 8.00am Special intention

Wed 10.00 am Dec members of the Dillon Family

Sat 9.00pm Donors of Easter Bouquet Cards

Sun 8.30am Donors of Easter Bouquet Cards

Sun 10.00am Donors of Easter Bouquet Cards

Sun 11.30am John & Kathleen O'Connor
Walter Higgins MM

Church of the Visitation Drynam

The Visitation of the BVM

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

Thank you to all helpers currently delivering Easter Cards and Newsletters to over 2,500 homes in the Drynam area. The Newsletter features a photo of Bishop Raymond Field greeting parishioners on his recent visit.



We welcome the following newly Baptised to our Parish Community:

Donnchada Bonine, Bobby Curley, Holly Walsh, Abigail Brophy, Evan Cleary, Josie Moore



Fundraising Concert in aid of St. Colmcille's Church will take place on

Friday 9th May at 7.30.p.m. in St. Colmcille's Church, An Evening of Traditional Music and Song with Garry O'Meara International Soloist and Special Guests. Tickets €10 can be purchased from the Sacristy, the Parish office, Paddy Gerrard, 087 4170075, Susan Kenna, 086 8152255, Maria O Connor, Drynam Parish, 087 6771374, and from a list of ticket sellers at the back of the Church.



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 **16th – 18th May 2014** in All Hallows, Drumcondra, Co Dublin. For further information please contact 086 0877379 or email bedublin@gmail.com

Fr. Michael Carey-8403378; Fr. Peter McCarron-8405948

Parish Secretary: Colette Stokes at Parish Office, Seatown Road-8407277

(Mon to Fri 9.15am-12.30pm & Tues-Thurs 2pm-4pm)

Sacristan: Stephanie Byrne-8400547 (Mon – Sat 9.30am-10.30am)

Website: www.swords-parish.com Email: stcolmcilleschurch@eircom.net



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Paying the Price

“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”



Newsletter Sunday 13th April 2014

In last Sunday's newsletter I said that 'For many of us, Jesus is the **scapegoat** who allows us to approach a God who we think is otherwise unapproachable. Certainly no one comes to God, except through the atoning work of Jesus, but if we need, because of our understanding, to believe that Jesus is our scapegoat who allows us to enter into a relationship with God, the scripture miraculously allows for such an understanding. Equally it allows us to see atonement as a matter of ransom for forgiveness if that is what our understanding requires'.

The life of Jesus was the life of a wandering preacher, though he spoke with an authority no other man had ever shown. The message he preached was "The Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News" (Mk.1:15). He made it clear that the kingdom he was offering was not the political kingdom that the Jews expected.

The offer of the Kingdom meant the offer of God's love. Jesus called God "Abba" or Father and through his words and deeds he showed that God's fatherly love reached out to everyone without distinction of race or colour or creed.

From the beginning if his public life, Jesus was on a collision course with the Jewish authorities. He earned the hatred of the Pharisees by exposing their pride and hypocrisy. He earned the hatred of the much more powerful and dangerous Sadducees, the chief priests and councilors, by his popularity with the people. The priests were afraid that he would take away their followers and so deprive them of all their power and influence.

Jesus himself was fully aware of the danger he was in. The gospel tells us that he warned his followers he would have to suffer and die as so many of the prophets had done before him. If he wanted to survive, he would have had to compromise and come to terms with the authorities. He would have had to stop attacking hypocrisy and criticising injustice. This was something he was not prepared to do, even to save his life.

The crisis came after he had made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The chief priests saw that they must act at once and began plotting to kill him. Jesus knew that the net was closing around him and he arranged to have a last supper with his twelve closest followers, these twelve that were called his apostles. It was at this farewell meal that he took the bread and the wine in his hands saying, "This is my body" and "This is my blood". Then he went out to the Garden of Gethsemane and waited for his arrest, bathed in a sweat of fear and horror.

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Antiphon - "Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done."

Holy Week

As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to participate as much as possible in the Parish Ceremonies this coming week, especially the Triduum. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is usually the least well attended liturgy and it is a beautiful Mass. On Good Friday, if for work or other reason you cannot make the 3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, please make sure to visit some church and venerate the cross. You then have the option of the Solemn Vigil or the Easter Sunday Mass

THE LIGHT IS STILL ON FOR YOU - CONFESSIONS FOR LENT

When asked by an interviewer who he considered himself to be, Pope Francis surprised many by responding that the best description of himself was: **"I am a sinner"**.

Lent is the season of conversion and return to God. It is a time also in which we can rediscover the joy of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Earlier this year Pope Francis set out a challenge for us all:

"I would like to ask you — but don't say it aloud, everyone respond in his or her own heart: when was the last time you made your confession? Two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? And if much time has passed, do not lose another day. Be courageous and go to Confession! Jesus will receive you; he will receive you with so much love".

As Lent comes to a conclusion the Archbishop has asked a number of City Centre Churches in Dublin to provide Confessions on Saturday 19th April, all day from 9.30am to 6.00pm. There will be a number of confessors available throughout the day so that ample time will be available for a conversation about your life.

The Light over the confessional is still on for you and the Archbishop asks you to make the most of this special occasion of grace.

Easter Bouquet Cards

These cards are now available for sale in the Sacristy and Parish Office. They cost E5 each and the Mass will be offered on Easter Vigil/Sunday. They make a lovely Easter gift especially if you would like to send one abroad

Holiday

There are still a number of places available for our Parish Holiday. As I said it's a lovely and safe way of travelling for anyone who hasn't holidayed anywhere in a while and we are going to a lovely part of Italy. The hotel has a swimming pool and a private beach. See box in newsletter.

Do This in Memory

I welcome the boys and girls and their families to the 6.30pm Vigil Mass and the 10.00am Sunday Mass as part of their Parish based preparation programme for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. I would also like to thank the parents who are part of the organising committee who met during the week to prepare these Masses



The Pharisees and the Sadducees

The Pharisees ("separate ones"), were a religious and political party that had its origin in the second century before Christ. During a time when it seemed as if the whole world was embracing Greek culture, they arose to combat this influence and to preserve Jewish ways. They so esteemed the "letter" of the law of Moses (more so than the "spirit" of the law), and so esteemed the oral traditions that were said to have sprung from the law, that they developed strict applications of the law for everyday life. The most famous Pharisee in all the Bible - although few people realise that that's what he once had been - is the Apostle Paul (Phil. 3:5).

The Sadducees were, like the Pharisees, a political and religious party in Jewish culture. Some scholars believe that they had their roots in a high priest named Zadok who lived in the days of David and Solomon (2 Sam. 15:24; 1 Kings 1:34-35); although this isn't certain. By Jesus' day, they were the ruling party in Jewish cultural life. They were generally wealthy men; and they generally tried to get along with the Roman government.

The Difference between them - A perhaps-overly generalised way to think about the differences between the Pharisees and the Sadducees in the times of Jesus was to see the Pharisees as Scripturally liberal (because they added oral traditions to its commands), but conservative in politics (because they opposed the Romans); and the Sadducees as Scripturally conservative (because they rejected oral tradition), but liberal in politics (because they sought to fit in with the Romans). The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead, and in angels and spirits; while the Sadducees rejected such beliefs (Acts 23:6-10). Both groups fought against each other for influence over the population; and both groups were in conflict with Jesus (Matthew 22:15-33; and especially verse 34 and following).

Sacrament of Reconciliation Confessions for Lent:

St. Colmcille's – Holy Thursday 12 noon to 1.00pm and after the 7.30pm Mass. Good Friday 10.00am to 11.30am and Holy Saturday 12noon to 1.00pm. *Our Lady of the Visitation, Drynam* – Good Friday after 12 noon Stations of the Cross.

City Centre Churches – Sat 19th April – St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral; St. Saviour's Dominick St; St. Andrew's Westland Row; St. Teresa's Clarendon St; St. Francis Xavier Gardiner St; St. Mary's Haddington Rd; Blessed Sacrament Chapel Bachelor's Walk; Our Lady Queen of Peace Merrion Rd; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Whitefriar St; Our Lady Refuge of Sinners Rathmines; St. John's Priory John's Lane; St. Joseph's Berkeley Rd.

Penitential Services: *Brackentown* – Mon 14th April at 8.00pm. ***River Valley*** – Wed 16th April at 8.00pm

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

There is a core similarity between the four accounts of the death of Jesus in the New Testament. However, they differ in sequence and in details, allowing various understandings of the cross to unfold. Because the death of Jesus was and is such a deeply mysterious and indeed perplexing event, different dimensions are explored and laid bare by different New Testament writers. Matthew, Luke and John all bring forward somehow the resurrection into the story of Jesus' death. None is more dramatic than Matthew, who introduces not one but two earthquakes at this point.

Prayer - O Lord, we tell again of the death of your Messiah, Jesus the Christ. In his story we see the story of your love as you reach out to us in the darkness of tragic death and tremendous suffering. Touch our hearts again with your compassionate love that we may return to you with all our hearts

A REFLECTIVE SENTENCE: Let your religion be less of a theory and more of a love affair. (GK Chesterton, Writer 1874-1936)

St. Vincent de Paul

The outdoor monthly collection for the VdP, will be taken up after all Masses this weekend. This will be the Palm Sunday Advocate Collection aimed especially at providing a holiday in Sunshine House, Balbriggan for children.