

Parishes of Swords Clonmethan
Kilsallaghan Donabate and Lusk

Newsletter

January 2018

A happy and peaceful New Year to all!

Register of Vestrymen.

As advised last month, the Register of Vestrymen for both parishes will be revised and updated in January 2018. This will be done for Swords on Tuesday 9th Jan and for Donabate on Wed 17th Jan.

A benefit of being on the register is that **you have a vote** when it comes to the election of the Select Vestry and who serves on it, which happens each year at the Easter General Vestry.

Another benefit is that you are also eligible to let your name go forward for election and to serve on the Select Vestry (a duty each parishioner should consider positively).

Even at this late stage, if any parishioners would like to be added to the register now, please contact the Churchwardens or the Rector as soon as possible about registration, and request a registration form for completion.

Christmas 2017

Thank you to all who helped make the celebration of Christmas 2017 so pleasant and enjoyable.

Thank you to those who cleaned and decorated the three churches so beautifully and ensured the settings were excellent.

Then thank you to the organists, Yvonne Packer in Swords and Margaret Lyons in Kilsallaghan for playing at the Carols Services, not forgetting the DJs in Donabate. And thank you to the readers in the three carol services for their contribution.

Donabate Sunday Club Nativity Play on Christmas Eve was very good, and thank you to each one, whether organising and participating. And the Family Service in Swords on New Year's Eve, led by Swords Sunday Club members, was very enjoyable ... thank you each one!

Thank you to all who came to church over the four services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day – you helped make the celebration of Christ's birth all the more meaningful.

The Ladies Tuesday Club:



The Club's Christmas dinner was held on Fri 8th Dec in The Carnegie Court Hotel, Swords, and by all accounts was very enjoyable.

The Club resumes activities on Tues 23rd Jan in the Meeting Room, Swords, when it will be activity ... Zumba! All ladies welcome.

Presents for less fortunate children at Christmas!

A big "THANK YOU" to all who responded to the appeal for Christmas presents for children in less than fortunate circumstances.

Presents collected at the Donabate and Swords Carol Services were brought to the Women's Refuge in Coolock, where they were very much appreciated.

And big thank you to Addy & Andrea Patterson for collecting and delivering them!

Confirmation 2018

We look forward to welcoming the Archbishop on **Saturday 3rd February, at 3.00pm, in St. Columba's Church, Swords**, when he will confirm six young people from the parish. They will also be joined by some young people from Drumcondra and north Strand Parishes too. Our Confirmation Candidates this year are Holly Bowbrick, Evan Finnegan, Conrad Love, Emma Cox, Elizabeth Murphy and Zara Ofobuike.

Please remember these young people in your prayers.

A positive resolution for 2018 – become a regular contributor:

Regular financial giving to your parish will help to ensure it can continue in its own entity and remain a viable unit, paying its way, and that it ought not to be in danger of having to be amalgamated with another parish. And by 'regular' is meant 'weekly' or 'monthly' financial instalments of how much you plan to give over the course of a given year.

Organising a Standing Order through your Bank or using the Freewill Envelopes scheme, has an added two-fold benefit for your parish:

(1) the Select Vestry can make more accurate estimates of income for the year, thus helping with cash-flow and budgeting; ... and

(2) if your contribution amounts to over €250.00 in the year, the parish can claim tax relief on the amount.

Both Select Vestries encourage all parishioners to play their full financial part in running the parish, and, at the beginning of 2018, invite you to contact the Churchwardens and/or Treasurers to put arrangements in place for you — they'll be glad to give you more details.

Girls' Brigade:



The 45th Co Girls' Brigade Swords/Donabate held their Enrolment Service on Sunday 26th November, in St Columba's Church, Swords, and was full for the occasion.

The girls of the Company led most of the service and acquitted themselves excellently. Following the service, the company treated everyone to refreshments in the Hall, which were very much enjoyed. Well done, girls!

Select Vestry Meetings – January

Swords: 8.00pm, Tuesday 9th Jan, in the Meeting Room.

Donabate: 8.00pm Wednesday 17th Jan, in the Church.

Bridge Classic:

A Bridge Classic was held in the Senior Citizens Club on Wednesday 29th Nov. It was very well supported with lots of prizes and a raffle. Supper was provided. About €1000 was raised for parish funds.

We very much appreciate and thank those who sponsored raffle prizes, and would especially thank the Captain and the members of the Wednesday Bridge Club for giving up their club night to facilitate the event and for their kind assistance on the night. In particular, we thank Margaret Coyle for running the event so successfully, those who helped her on the night, and “the kitchen staff”.

All agreed it was a good night.

A Parish Prayer

Father, we pray for your blessing on our parish.

Give each one who worships in this place, grace to grow in faith, that we may live and work to your glory.

Fill us with your Spirit and bind us together, that, in all we do, we may seek to build each other up in love.

Be with us as we come together to give witness in our community.

Help us to look beyond ourselves

and to reach out to those in any kind of need;

always remembering to put our trust in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wee crackers!

Q: What do you get if you cross Father Christmas with a detective?

A: Santa Clues!

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: Because he had low elf esteem!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Snowflakes!

Q: Why does Santa have three gardens?

A: So he can ho-ho-ho!

Q: What do the reindeer sing to Santa on his birthday?

A: Freeze a jolly good fellow!

Q: How many chimneys does Santa go down?

A: Stacks!

Q: Why does Santa go down the chimney?

A: Because it soots him!

Q: What happened when the snowgirl fell out with the snowboy?

A: She gave him the cold shoulder!

St Columba's Church, Swords

REMINDER!!

JUMBLE COLLECTION

What we want –

**Re-usable Adults and Kids clothing,
Handbags and Belts, Paired Shoes,
Bed Linen in good condition.**

What we do NOT want –

**Duvets or Pillows, Dirty or Wet Clothes,
Damaged Clothing, Socks or Slippers,
Throws.**

***Please bring jumble bags to
St Columba's Church (as drop-off point)
each Saturday in January
from 11am till 2pm***

**Your help with this adventure will be greatly
appreciated.**

***(For further info. please contact
Derek at 087-2409 135)***

Church Service in January 2018

Date	Donabate	Swords	Kilsallaghan
Sun 7th Jan <i>The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord</i>	10.00am Morning Prayer + Donabate Sunday Club	11.30am Holy Communion	_____ —
Sun 14th Jan <i>The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	10.00am Holy Communion	11.30am Morning Prayer + Swords Sunday Club	11.30am Holy Communion
Sun 21st Jan <i>The Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	10.00am Family Service	11.30am Holy Communion ** 6.30pm ** Bangers@MASH	_____ —
Sun 28th Jan <i>The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	10.00am Holy Communion	11.30am Family Service	11.30am Morning Prayer
Sun 4th Feb <i>The Second Sunday before Lent</i>	10.00am Morning Prayer + Donabate Sunday Club	11.30am Holy Communion	_____ —