### REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the following whose anniversaries occur: Desmond and Eithne O’Leary, Bernard O’Brien, Michael Kelly, Annie and Christopher Stanley, Melda Stanley, Edmund Bowden, Elaine Bowden, Maura Farragher Collins, Barrie Heffernan, Anne Hancock, Michael Gannon, John Wiseman, Lorcan Hogan, Anne Hancock, James McDonagh, Marie Carroll, Nell Ryan, Denis Ryan, Tony Lincoln, Peter Shaffrey.

We also remember Anne Reade and Betty Dent at the time of their month’s mind and May Roddy, Lily Burke, Albert Marshall, Evelyn Mulreany, Mary McElwee, Joan Banks and Brian Loughney who are recently deceased.

MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL

DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE.

AMEN.

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**CHURCH COLLECTIONS**

The amounts collected last weekend are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **GREEN BASKET** | **WHITE BASKET** |
| **Nov 20th**  |  **€1,100** |  **€810** |

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of

poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your ongoing support and generosity.

***WEEKLY*** ***BULLETIN***

###  St. Mary’s, Star of the Sea

###  Sandymount

**Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30**

**Fr. John McDonagh, Tel: 6684265 – Fr. Cormac McIlraith, Tel: 6686845**

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.comRCN20016166

**December 4th 2022**

 **Season of Hope**

The grace of Advent is hope, the virtue by which we can recognise and welcome God’s presence even though we don’t experience that presence with our human senses. What we all seek in prayer during Advent is that we become more helpful people.

Hope is not to be confused with optimism. The optimist looks at a grey picture and sees only white, while the pessimist looking at the same grey picture sees only black. The hopeful person will not deny the truth that this is indeed a grey picture but has the conviction that over time it will become a brilliant white.

The Christian is sustained in a hopeful view of life because of Christ’s victory over sin and death. We are undaunted by evil and refuse to give up on our dreams, assured that the Lord is always with us to encourage and sustain us on the journey.

We don’t deny evil and all that makes life difficult in the present but the vision of life Christ shares with us penetrates everything, including our living amid struggles and worries, failures and disappointments.

Our hope is real. We see the grey but anticipate the white of glory.

**‘Do this in Memory’ – next Sunday**

Next Sunday, Dec 11th, we will celebrate our next **‘Do this in Memory’** Mass with the children and their parents who are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time. Children are asked to bring their candles to be lit during the Mass. Parents are reminded to help the children by reading pages 14 and 15 of **Thumbs** to them and helping them complete the exercises on pages 44 and 45. The Advent calendar on pages 46 and 47 also invites their daily colour-in during Advent. Please read also the relevant pages on Grapevine 3 with the children.

**Advent Ecumenical Prayer**

On Thursday next, Dec 8th, at 7pm – our parish will be host to an ecumenical gathering for Evening Prayer. We welcome the Rev Leonard Ruddock from St Matthews Church of Ireland and the Rev Michael Jones, the Methodist Minister of Christ Church, Sandymount, along with members of their respective parishes. Evening Prayer will be led by Sr. Rosemary from the Franciscan Sisters Convent. This is an event for all the family and everyone is most welcome.

**Mass of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Thursday next, Dec 8th is Our Lady’s Feast day.

Masses will be celebrated at 7.30am, 10am and 6pm. The Rosary will be recited after the 6pm Mass.

**First Friday**

We visit the housebound with Holy Communion on the first Friday of every month. If there are any people who would appreciate a visit please let us know. After the 10am Mass on this Friday there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30. All are most welcome.

**Christmas Shop**

The church shop is now open again to sell Christmas Cards and other items before 6pm Mass on Saturday and before and after 9am, 10.30am and 12 noon Masses. We have just received a beautiful range of handmade Christmas gift items from the Hands of Hope charity which are now on sale. If you would like to volunteer to help in the shop please contact Triona Long via the parish office.

**Vespers at the Pro Cathedral**

Advent vespers at St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral takes place on Tuesdays at 5:30pm with St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral Girls’ Choir and Fridays at 5:30pm with the Palestrina Choir. During this season of Advent, attending the sung office of vespers is a very reverent way to prepare for the Christmas season.

**The Palestrina Choir Christmas Concert**

The Palestrina Choir Christmas Concert takes place in the National Concert Hall on **Saturday, December 10**, at 8pm. St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral Girls’ Choir will sing at a concert in St Ann’s Church, Dawson Street, on Monday, December 12. They will be performing a selection of seasonal carols and Christmas favourites, including Britten's Ceremony of Carols and carols by Rutter, Arnesen, Willcocks and many more. Joining them will be Geraldine O’Doherty on harp and Gráinne Dunne accompanist. The concert will be conducted by Blanaid Murphy. Tickets are available on Eventbrite or at the Parish Office of St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral.

**A Little Lifetime**

The A Little Lifetime Foundation’s Christmas Service of Remembrance will take place in St Nicholas of Myra Church, Francis Street, Dublin 8, this Sunday, December 4, at 7pm. It will be attended by Archbishop Farrell, with music by the Garda Male Voice Choir. The foundation’s Christmas Tree Lighting Service takes place on Sunday, December 11, at Glasnevin cemetery New Angels Plot at 4pm.

**AMRI webinar**

On **Tues, Dec 13,** at 7pm, AMRI ( The assoc. of Leaders of Missionaries and Religious of Ireland ) host a webinar for members entitled *Room at the Inn? Displacement, ‘flight into’ Ireland and what it means to ‘live’ Fratelli Tutti*. The presenters of this webinar are moral theologian Dr Suzanne Mulligan from St. Patrick’s College Maynooth, who will contextualise the response to ‘welcoming the stranger’ with an exploration of Pope Francis’s encyclicals Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si’, and Homayoon Shirzad, a refugee from Afghanistan living in Ireland, will speak to his experience his experience of fleeing war in Afghanistan and seeking – and finding – a welcome and ‘a room at the inn’. Rory O’Neill from the Irish Refugee Council will give an overview of the current refugee situation in Ireland and provide an update on the AMRI member response. Register at [www.amri.ie](http://www.amri.ie)