

# REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eugene O’Neill; Rita Mulligan; Niall Browne; Mary (Bonnie) O’Reilly; William Nelson, his wife Patty, daughter Mary and son Des.

And for Kathleen Fitzgerald whose Month’s Mind occurs.

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	Share
28 <sup>th</sup> March	€115	€145

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

## TROCAIRE

Lenten Boxes are available on the table at the back of the church. We would love to see Trocaire getting the support it deserves.

# 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.com](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

*Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

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### *Celebrating the Resurrection*

### *Happy Easter to All! Alleluia, he is Risen*

“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor 15:14).

Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus is the centre-piece of Christian faith and life. You cannot be called a Christian unless you believe in the Resurrection of Christ. That’s why Easter has always been the most important feast in the Christian calendar. “Anyone who knows Easter cannot despair.” These words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran theologian executed in Flossenburg concentration camp in 1945, might serve us well this Easter, as we struggle on with the tedium of Covid-19 restrictions and for another year see ourselves denied the joyful gathering of Easter celebration.

The Easter events that took place in Jerusalem in the year 30AD are not a made-up story. Following the death of Jesus and the apparent defeat of their whole cause the disciples fled. “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel,” they said (Lk 24:21). They barricaded themselves behind closed doors out of fear. We might resonate with them in the extent of our confinement this past year in fear of the virus. It was only their encounter with the risen Christ that freed them from their paralysis and filled them with an enthusiastic faith in Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and death.

There are no proofs of the Resurrection of Jesus in the scientific sense. There are, however, very strong individual and collective testimonies by a large number of contemporaries of those events in Jerusalem. The oldest

written testimony is a letter written by St. Paul to the Corinthians about twenty years after Christ's death (1 Cor 15:3-6). Paul is recording a living tradition that was present in the original Christian community two or three years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, when he himself became a Christian. His conversion was dramatic – based on his staggering encounter with the risen Lord. The disciples took the fact of the empty tomb (Lk 24:2-3) as the first indication of the Resurrection. It was three women discovered it. Full assurance, however, only came about after a series of appearances of the risen Lord until the day of Ascension. Assurance also came when the disciples experienced in themselves an empowerment by the Holy Spirit, that came upon them at Pentecost. It enabled them to do what Jesus did. And so, St. Luke in his two volume work shows the works of the Spirit in Jesus in his Gospel and the same works of the Spirit in the Apostles in his second work, the Acts of the Apostles.

It has been very difficult for all of us in a Christian community to be denied the opportunity of encounter with Christ in the sacraments during this past year. At the same time we know that the risen Lord is with us. "I am with you to the end of the world," he said. We may also have found some truth in the old Irish proverb that 'God doesn't close one gate but he opens another.' Perhaps you found opportunity to share faith and prayer more than previously in the family or a felt need for our Sunday experience at a new and deeper level? Sunday remains, as it has been over the centuries, our Easter day.

It is central to the life of a Catholic Christian to "keep holy" Sunday and the other holy days of the church. One is exempted from it only in urgent family duties and important responsibilities in society. Because participation in the Sunday Eucharist is fundamental for a Christian life, the Church explicitly teaches, and has done so throughout its history, that it is a serious matter to stay away from Sunday Mass without good reason. If we're earnest in our belief in the Resurrection and the call to live a Christian life we will be part of the gathering at Sunday Mass. We celebrate the Resurrection in doing so. Easter Sunday is the most significant day in the Church's year and every Sunday brings its joyful message home to us on a regular basis.

### ***Happy Easter to All.***

**The Parish Office** is closed to the public for the time being. Because of the current seriousness of concern for public health, we have decided to close the parish office to the public for the time being. However, parishioners are invited to leave a message on the phone (01 6683316 or 01 6683894) or to contact Fr John (01 6684265/0876294325) or Fr Cormac (01 6686845) for any services required. Phone messages to the parish office will be checked daily and responded to.

I exist at the temporal level, while what I need is the eternal.  
I exist at the finite level, while what I need is the infinite.  
Lord, I cannot make myself believe

that I am a fish out of water,  
a bird without a sky,  
a question without an answer,  
a road without an end.

I cannot believe that love is only a chemical reaction and that it doesn't survive the last beat of a man's heart.

I cannot believe that the incredible evolution of man and the universe,  
which goes back to the beginning of time  
and continues today,  
is all in vain.

Lord, I accept your divine revelation  
as the great culmination of creation,  
as the answer of love to my essential question.

It is not a tranquilliser to set my mind at ease,  
and it is not an invitation to escape from the world.  
It is instead a reason for me to take root in the earth  
from whence comes *life*.

'Martha said to Jesus: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus said: "I am the resurrection.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,  
And whoever lives and believes in me, will never die.

Do you believe this?

"Yes, Lord," she said, "I believe that you are the Christ!"' (Jn 11: 21-27)

From Michel Quoist, 'Meet Christ and Live', 1972

### **Our Thanks**

We are deeply grateful to all in our parish, who in the difficult circumstances of the pandemic have kept their faith, hope and love strong and helped keep our community of faith alive. We thank all who continue to visit the church for private prayer; all who link with us via webcam for daily Mass, and the many, who in kindly donations have supported the church at a time of need.

A particular thanks to Jimmy Mc Glynn and to Gerard Lincoln who open and close the church each day; to Carol, Kathleen and Mary who sanitize the church each morning for the safety of all who visit. We're very grateful to Jimmy O'Doherty and his team who, against all the Covid time odds, have built an Easter Garden for us and provided us with a supply of palm this week. Our thanks to Carol and Catherine who have decorated the altar so beautifully for us. A big thank you to Joe McNamara and members of the Pastoral Council in overseeing pastoral needs and to both Joe and Seamus Brett in creating the Stations of the Cross in an online version for us. A special thanks too to Deirdre Seaver and Seamus for their ongoing service to the liturgy and to cantors and readers who, within Covid restrictions, have been very generous in their willing help