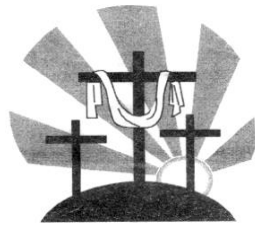


# REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Christopher Mullen who has died and for Bernie Dowling, Maura Farragher Collins, Peter Shaffrey, Marie Carroll, Joyce Davitt, Fr Francis Mc Donnell, Peter Clarke, John Brinkers, Kathleen and Eddie Gaynor, Emma McCrory and Hilda Russell whose anniversaries occur at this time.

MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	WHITE BASKET
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023	€1,200	€715

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund. The white basket is normally the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

During the month of October 2023 the Tap and Go machines in Sandymount Parish collected €1,606 from 174 transactions. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share. The Share collection over the weekend of 21st and 22nd October was for Mission Sunday and €171.37 from the above went there.

# 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  
RCN2001616

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

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### The Second Sunday of Advent

The readings this week bring two of the three great Advent figures to us, the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist. It will be another two weeks before our readings bring our focus to Mary, the third inspirational person in the Advent journey. Three Champions of Hope.

When we say 'Isaiah' we must further identify which Isaiah we're meeting because scholars are convinced that the Book of Isaiah is a composite work of three different persons.

Chapters 1 to 39 are seen as the work of 'First Isaiah' and were written when the people lived under the kings of David in Judah in relative peace. The writer is referred to as 'Isaiah of Jerusalem' and Jerusalem itself is seen as 'God's City' which he will not allow to fall.

The writer of chapters 40 to 66, on the other hand, is set in a different historical time, a time when Jerusalem has fallen and its leading citizens are exiled in Babylon (587 B.C.). The exile lasted until Babylon fell to the Persians in 539 B.C., after which the exiled Jews were enabled to return to their homeland.

It is believed that the prophetic work of the writer of chapter 40 onwards, known today as Second Isaiah, began around 540 B.C. He lived more than 150 years after Isaiah of Jerusalem and his work strikes a different tone, one of great hope, in contrast to the strongly judgemental tones of First Isaiah (chapters 1 to 39.) Second Isaiah is a great poet whose work seamlessly merges prophecy and poetry. His first poem is the one we read at Mass today.

*'Console my people: Console them.'*

cont'd over

Some argue that chapters 56 to 66 of Isaiah were written by a third person, a disciple of second Isaiah because the historical background has again changed, the people have now returned from exile in Babylon whereas the chapters between Ch. 40 and 55 were addressed to the exiles. The poetry of Second Isaiah and his disciple Third Isaiah, is beautiful and small wonder that it is often compared to that of Shakespeare.

And as we read that first poem of today's reading it resonates immediately with the life and work of John the Baptist, one enfleshing the other and indeed defining John's role. No wonder the message of Second Isaiah was appropriated in the New Testament to proclaim the "good news" that "the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15).

In the appalling darkness of Gaza and Israel today, a place of hell and horror, one prays that the voice of Second Isaiah will be heard again both there and throughout the world.

*God Comes – not with powerful arms that crush innocence but like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes!*                      **Console my people: Console them.**

### **Star of the Sea PPC AGM 2023**

Our annual AGM took place in a packed Parish Meeting Room on Wednesday 29th November and following approval of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, reports were delivered in relation to the past year's work, by the Chair, the Parish Priest, Chair of the Finance Committee and our Parish Safeguarding representative, copies of which may be found at the back of the Church. The three nominees for positions on the PPC were duly affirmed by the meeting and, anticipating the retirement of Secretary, Mary Murphy and Chair, Anne Bacon, the PPC membership now comprises Fr John McDonagh (PP), Fr Cormac McIlraith, Turlough McDonnell, Pat Talbot, Claire McElvaney, Michelle Corcoran, Catherine O'Reilly, Dan Manahan, Frances Murray, Martha Gomez, Jim Lucey, Michael Flynn, Peter Carvill, Ruth D'Alton and Martin Neary. Our first meeting of the new Parish Council will be on next Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our thanks again to Anne Bacon and Mary Murphy, stepping down after great service.

### **Do this in Memory**

Next Sunday at 10.30am we welcome the First Communion children and their parents to the third 'Do this in Memory Mass'.

### **St Vincent de Paul**

We welcome members of our local conference who will speak at all Masses this weekend on the occasion of the annual St Vde P collection. It takes the place of the SHARE collection.

### **Ecumenical Prayer in Advent**

We thank all who attended the Taizé prayer last Sunday at 5pm and those too from across our local Christian Churches who came to the Evening Prayer on Tuesday last.

Evening Prayer, led by the St Matthew's Church of Ireland, will take place this Tuesday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the changed venue from that previously announced, at Christ Church on the Green.

Work at St. Matthews is ongoing.

### **Children's Nativity**

Children's Nativity Play on Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th) at 3 pm. All are welcome to an impromptu nativity play. Children are invited to dress as angels and shepherds and join their parents and grandparents in singing Christmas carols to welcome Baby Jesus.

### **Crosscare Appeal**

Crosscare, the Archdiocese's social care agency, is seeking support for its Christmas Food Poverty Appeal at this challenging time for many families and individuals. This year, they have worked with almost 1,000 families and their children, not just giving them essential food and supplies but advising them and guiding them out of food poverty in the long term, giving them a hand up, not just a handout.

They have also been able to revamp the Community Café in Portland Row in Dublin's North East Inner city, where this year they delivered over 5,000 nutritious meals to people who could not source good food and support. Any donation received will help the Food Poverty team help others move forward in life and enjoy the independence of supporting themselves.

Anyone wishing to contribute can donate online at [www.crosscare.ie](http://www.crosscare.ie), call 01 8360011, or send a cheque or postal order to Crosscare Christmas Appeal, 2 St Mary's Place North, D07 Y768, Dublin. Thank you for your ongoing support for those most in need.

**Christmas cards and dues**

Christmas Dues envelopes will be available at the back of the church next week. We welcome help from volunteers in distributing the cards and envelopes. If you can help please contact the office on 01 6683316 or [sandymountparish@eircom.net](mailto:sandymountparish@eircom.net) .