

# REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Elizabeth McGuinness who has died and for Eugene Murray, Jack and Nancy Doran, David and John Doran, Emma McCrory, Christine O'Doherty, Mary and Martin Boughan, Séan Hegarty, Fr Matty O'Doherty, Marie Whelan, James and Teresa Sands, Seán Hegarty, Jim Bohan, Peter and Samuel Clarke whose anniversaries occur at this time and for Paddy Sheehan 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	WHITE BASKET
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023	€250	€170
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023	€1,070	€8,730*

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. \* The SHARE collection on 10<sup>th</sup> December was replaced by the collection for St Vincent de Paul.

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

# 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)

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

\* \* \* \* \*

## Gaudete Sunday

Gaudete! Rejoice!

This third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete Sunday.' 'Gaudete' is the Latin word for 'rejoice' and you'll notice that the readings and prayers are like a great chord of Joy ... 'be happy' ... 'rejoice' ... 'good news.'

We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath as a sign of joy. While purple is the colour for repentance and changing of heart, pink reminds us that it is all exercised in joy.

Our journey in faith should always be lived within the 'Joy of Life.' St. Augustine reminds us that an essential quality in the life of a Christian teacher is 'hilaritas' which translates as 'hilarity' or 'cheerfulness.' The serious, long faced Christian is less likely to teach or convert anyone towards Christ. Even in sad and difficult stages of our life's journey, the joy of the Gospel and knowledge of God's compassionate and saving love should find a resounding place in our hearts.

'Joy was in my heart, Alleluia,  
When I heard them say,  
Let us go to God's house'.

### **Bishops Winter Meeting**

Members of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference gathered last week in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, for the Winter 2023 General Meeting. During their meeting, bishops celebrated Mass in the College Chapel and prayers were offered for peace, respect for the dignity of human life, and for climate justice throughout the world. The Bishops' Conference noted the announcement by the Government to hold two referendums in March 2024 concerning Article 41 of Bunreacht na hÉireann, and will study the related legislation when it is published. Topics discussed during the meeting included the accommodation shortage and meagre State income facing asylum seekers in Ireland, and the UN COP28, which is seeking agreement on policies aimed at limiting the rise in global temperature and dealing with the impacts associated with climate change, as well as many other topics including honouring Sunday and the centrality of the Eucharist. The Bishops stated, "the Sunday Mass is at the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal faith. While some may have drifted away from regular attendance of Mass, and others may have developed the habit of continuing to watch online instead of joining the community in person, we encourage families and individuals who are able to do so, to return to Mass for Christmas and the New Year, knowing the importance of the Sunday gathering in the life of our parishes and to help achieve a greater appreciation of Sunday, knowing that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life." We will publish more of the topics over the next few weeks.

### **Do this in Memory**

We welcome the children preparing for First Communion and their parents to the 'Do This in Memory' Mass this Sunday. We ask parents to work with their children on pages 50 to 53 of Thumb which offer an exercise for each of the 12 days of Christmas leading up to Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Epiphany. Also between now and Christmas Eve, the Advent calendar on pages 46 and 47 invites ongoing colour work. Plenty of work for the Christmas time !

### **Christmas Tree**

Our thanks to Jimmy O' Doherty for our Christmas tree and wreaths which will be put up this week. Once again, we invite parishioners to include names of loved ones on the tree to be held in prayer. Just write your loved ones name on the ribboned cards and hang it on the tree.

### **Carol Service**

Everyone is welcome this Sunday at 5pm to our Advent Carol Service. Well done to the boys of Star of the Sea school and their teachers who gave us a lovely carol service on Thursday night this week !

### **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.

### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection**

The members of the Society would like to thank parishioners for their generosity again this year. €8,730 was collected at Masses last weekend. They are very grateful for your wonderful response to their Christmas appeal

### **Christmas Cards and dues**

Christmas Dues envelopes are available at the back of the church this week. Star of the Sea Christmas Cards featuring panels from the stained glass windows are available in the bookshop. People who kindly deliver the cards for us might call into the parish office or perhaps take one home for a neighbour who may be housebound or cannot make it to church at present. All of our Christmas Masses will be available on the webcam for those who cannot attend.

### **Tap and Go**

During the month of November 2023 the Tap and Go machines in Sandymount Parish collected €1,510.00 from 174 transactions. This is split 60% to the Common Fund and 40% to Share.

### **Young Adult Camino 2024**

The Dublin diocese have just launched the Young Adult trip to the Camino June 2024. Completing the last 110km of the Camino from Sarria to Santiago, this is a pilgrimage not to miss! Places are limited and all details, including preparation days, can be found on [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie) or contact the diocesan office [natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:natalie.doherty@dublindiocese.ie)

**Carols in Harrington Street**

Advent Carol Service with Nine Lessons and Benediction, St Kevin's Church, Harrington Street, Dublin 8, this Sunday December 17, at 3.30pm.  
Music by the Lassus Scholars and Piccolo Lasso.