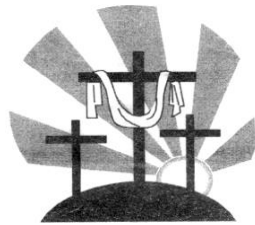


# REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Eileen Ging, Sarah and Joseph Kane, Nellie and Kitty Cowley, Nora and Imelda Raleigh, Terry and Denis Brazil, David Walsh, Daniel Hickland, Kathleen McLoughlin, Aedan and Vera Waldron, Gretta Allen, Celine Hogan, Lorcan Hogan, Joseph Sadlier and Liam Lynch, 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.

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## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected over Christmas and last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	WHITE BASKET
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024	€1,220	€825

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.

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 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024**

### Catholic Schools Week

This week from Sunday to Saturday is Catholic Schools Week. The theme of this year's celebration is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Service". In both Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools, drawing on Jesus and his teaching, the children focus on - Service in our community of friends; Service in our School Community; Service in our Family Community; Service in our local Community and Service in our Faith Community, a theme for each day of the week.

Each of us belongs to a community. This might be our GAA club, our village or town. Catholics also belong to a special community of faith. We see this in our parish when people come together to pray to and worship God at Mass, to support each other in sad times and to celebrate important moments in life together. Jesus calls us to be a community and tells us that when we gather together in faith, hope and love, even in small numbers, he will be there too: 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' (Mt 18:20).

Throughout his life and ministry, Jesus showed what it means to serve others, especially those on the margins of society. Every Catholic school is called to be a community that serves, inviting students to use their gifts and talents at the service of others. In our schools, we model love, kindness and care towards ourselves, others, God and creation. In this way, our Catholic schools are communities of service. This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate and recognise the unique contribution our schools make at the service of our pupils, our communities and our Church. May the Lord bless us and guide us in being communities of faith, hope and love.

## **Sunday of the Word of God**

Today is celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God, in keeping with its inauguration by Pope Francis in 2020. It falls appropriately on the Sunday of the Church Unity Octave pointing to the Sacred Scriptures as a source of our unity with Christ on our journey to the Father, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

‘I would like so much’, wrote Pope Francis, ‘for all Christians to be able to comprehend ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ’ (cf Phil. 3:8) through the diligent reading of the Word of God, for the sacred text is the nourishment of the soul and the pure and perennial source of the spiritual life of all of us. We must therefore make every effort in order that every believer may read the Word of God, for ignorance of the Scriptures is indeed ‘ignorance of Christ’, as St Jerome says’.

On Tuesday evenings, beginning this week, at 6.30pm in the Church meeting room (entrance by the back door – up the steps), there is an opportunity to pray with the Scriptures in a method of praying known as ‘Lectio Divinia’, (divine reading). It is a way of praying that not only allows us to read the but also allows the Scriptures to read us. Our thanks to Pat Talbot, trained in this way of praying, who leads us.

The Reformation was at its time a traumatic shock to the Church such that in the Church’s response to it, there was an over anxious concern to protect its interpretation of the Scriptures by discouraging individual reading and interpretation of the sacred texts. That was unfortunate to the point where in some places ‘Bible reading’ was seen as a protestant exercise. It is evidenced in this English Catechism question of 1871:  
Q. “Would it not be well to make translations of the Bible into the vulgar tongue so that it might be put into the hands of all, even of the laity?  
A. the Church forbids that the Bible, literally translated into the vulgar tongue should be given to be read by all persons indifferently”.

We’ve come a long way.

## **Knock Pilgrimage – Save the date**

Archbishop Dermot Farrell will lead the annual Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock on Saturday, April 27. This year we are celebrating 145 years since the apparition in 1879. The Choir of Many Voices from throughout the Archdiocese will be back this year. A series of workshops are planned,

more details to follow. If you would like to take part in the choir or have any other queries, please email [knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie](mailto:knockpilgrimage@dublindiocese.ie)

## **Organ Recital**

On Sunday next at 4pm, we will have an organ recital in Star of the Sea given by Francesco Ghirxi.

It’s a great opportunity for parishioners to come and hear again the beautiful music of our renovated organ. We’re very grateful to Francesco, who hails from Malta and is a highly qualified organist. Everybody is welcome, adm. is free with a donation basket for those who wish to support the event.

## **Wanted**

Cook/Housekeeper required (Dublin 4). 15hrs per week. Mon. Weds. and Fri.(9am - 2pm).

Duties to include cooking mid-day meal for 3 adults, house cleaning and laundry. €16.00 per hour. Excellent references required. Contact: Anne by 31st January 2024 on 087 233 6901 or [hr@oblates.ie](mailto:hr@oblates.ie)

Or forward CV to: Human Resources, Oblates of Mary Immaculate, House of Retreat, Inchicore, D8. .

## **Divine Mercy**

The Annual Divine Mercy Conference will take place in the RDS Donnybrook over three days in February. It runs Feb 23-25 incl. Inspiring talks, wonderful music, opportunities for confession, Mass, and prayer - The Annual Mercy Conference is for people of all ages and is an excellent way to reinvigorate your faith. Tickets and further details are available via the website [www.divinemercyconference.com](http://www.divinemercyconference.com)

## **A Word to the World**

Fr Timothy Radcliffe will deliver a talk entitled : **The Synod – A Word to the World**, in St Mary’s Haddington rd. on Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Feb at 7pm, Timothy Radcliffe is a well-known theologian and spiritual author who looks at the questions that many Christians ask in living out the faith. At the request of Pope Francis he led the three day preparatory retreat for participants in the Synod on Synodality in Rome, as well as delivering weekly spiritual reflections, last October. He is the author of many books and articles in the

popular field of practical Christianity, the most recent being Why Go To Church (2009), Alive in God (2019) and Questioning God (with Lukasz Popko, 2023). All are welcome, adm. is free but a small contribution to cover coffee and other expense would be welcome.

### **Epiphany Carol Service**

All are most welcome to this special Epiphany Carol service in St Mary's Pro cathedral this Sunday after- noon at 3.30pm. Featuring the Palestrina Choir, St Mary's Pro Cathedral Girls choir with organist Alexandr Nisse, the concert is conducted by Blanaid Murphy. Adm is free.

### **Assisted Suicide – Archbishop Martin**

'The leader of the Irish Church has said it would be "an awful indictment of where we are as a society" if Ireland were to legalise assisted dying. Archbishop Martin of Armagh referred to the experience of other countries. He said there was no doubt that it was a "slippery slope" as it was now being offered in some of those countries to children with mental health problems who were "in distress". Describing it as the "thin end of the wedge", he said it is "sad that we feel that the simplest thing to do is to move towards ending a life" rather than giving people "a beautiful feeling that they are still valued even in their frailty and their vulnerability". He paid tribute to those working in hospices and palliative care as "angels in our midst" who "need our help and support" as they do "amazing work with our loved ones who are struggling in their last days". He said the state "could do more" to support hospices financially.' -The Tablet, January 6, 2024