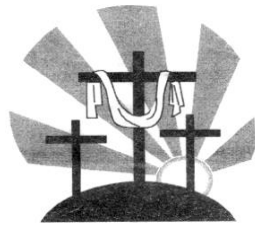


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Aedan and Vera Waldron, Gretta Allen, Celine Hogan, Lorcan Hogan, Joseph Sadlier, David Sadlier, Daniel Hickland, Jimmy Sommers 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
21 st Jan 2024	€815	€470

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

Sunday 28th January 2024

The Feast of the Presentation

It was a Roman custom, at this time of year, to burn candles to the goddess, February, mother of Mars, to ward off evil spirits. As with many other pagan customs, the Church introduced a ritual of Christian meaning to coincide with this practice. Forty days after Christmas we have a procession with lighted candles to celebrate Christ as the light of the world. That's why February 2nd is called Candlemas.

On this Feast of the presentation in the Temple, Simeon proclaimed Jesus as a 'light to enlighten the pagans'. At Baptism we each receive a lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle of the Risen Christ, to express the hope that it will be kept burning brightly in lives of living faith.

Universities, in the past, often began a new term on this day, hence known as Candlemas Term. The autumn term was Michaelmas, beginning with the Feast of St. Michael on September 29th, a feast extended nowadays to also include the archangels Gabriel and Raphael. Such days were celebrated with significance in the past. They were two of the 'quarter days' for a long time – days which, three months apart, divided the year into quarters. On such quarter days, servants were hired, school terms started and rents were due.

Before Christianity came to Ireland there were four quarter days Lúnasa (1st August), Samhain (1st November), Imbolc (1st February) and Bealtaine (1st May).

Imbolc in Christian times became St. Brigid's Day – which we celebrate next Thursday. cont'd over

These ancient Celtic quarter days are now called cross-quarter days because they fall about half way into the traditional English quarters of Lady Day (25th March) Midsummer Day (24th June), Michaelmas Day (29th Sept) and Christmas (25th December). The cross-quarter days became in Christian times Candlemas (2nd February), May Day (1st May), Lammas (1st August) and All Hallows (1st November).

Whatever way we may look on 2nd February today, it had great significance for everyday life in the past – The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord. Traditionally it is the day we bless candles for use in the church or at home.

'Do this in Memory'

Our next 'Do this in memory' Mass with children and parents preparing for First Communion will be on Sunday week, February 11th. The parents' group meeting to plan that Mass will be on next Saturday, Feb 3rd, at 9am in the church meeting room.

Feast of St Brigid

This Thursday, Feb 1st, we celebrate the lovely Feast of St. Brigid, a patron saint of Ireland.

Blessing of Throats

On the Feast of St Blaise, February 3rd, throats will be blessed after the 7.30am and 10am Masses.

St Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection for St Vincent de Paul will take place after all Masses next weekend, 3rd and 4th of February. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Lectio Divinia.

Pat Talbot has kindly offered to continue the lectio Divina opportunity each Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in the parish meeting room (entrance through the door at the back of the Church, up the steps). All are welcome. With a focus on the Sunday Gospel, Lectio Divina is a way of praying with the Scriptures that enables conversation between the Word of

Scripture and what's happening in our own lives. We read the Scriptures but the Scriptures also read us.

Prayer with the Desert Mothers and Fathers

Join the congregation of redemptorist nuns at the monastery of Alphonsus for a year of prayer event on Monday 29th January at 8pm. reflective music with the Dublin Diocesan Music group. Come in person or online at www.rednuns.com.

Organ Recital

This Sunday afternoon at 4pm, we will have an organ recital in Star of the Sea given by Francesco Ghirxi. Francesco is a regular accompanist and recitalist based in Dublin and owes his musical initiation here to Thomas Charles Marshall, organist and regular conductor at St. Ann's Church Dawson St. He holds a diploma and degree from Edinburgh Napier University and the University of Malta in organ performance and composition. We give a warm welcome to Francesco and look forward to what promises to be a very special occasion in our church. Everybody is welcome, Adm. is free with a donation basket for those who wish to support the event.

Home from Home, Sandymount

Everyone is most welcome to the drop in morning hosted by the Community Center for anyone in the area who wants to meet some new people, read the papers, have a cuppa and learn more about what's going on in the community. Pop in on Thursday morning between 10am and noon or email info@sandymountcommunitycentre.ie

The centre also runs a fortnightly parent/baby meet up, on the 2nd and 4th weekend of the month. The group is ideal for parents of non-walking babies in buggies or carriers.

Memory Research - Volunteers needed

Trinity College institute of Neuroscience, College Green is looking for participants in a clinical study of people experiencing memory loss. If you are 50+ years old and are experiencing memory difficulties and would like to find out more email alzheimertrial@gmail.com or pick up a flyer at the back of the church. www.lab-clint.org

2024 World Leprosy Day

This Sunday 28th Jan marks World leprosy Day. On this day we remember Fr John Bradburn 1921 – 1979, who lived in Mutemwa, Zimbabwe and established the Mutemwa leprosy Care centre and was subsequently murdered during the civil war in 1979. . The campaign for John's beatification is well underway and the Vatican has issued a formal decree to begin a process that will conclude with his recognition as a saint.

Date for your diary - Divine Mercy Conference

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. lots more information via www.divinemercyconference.com