



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Marie Carroll, Fionnbar Callanan and Mary Doyle who died this week.

For the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ellen & Joseph Donnelly; Peter Shaffrey; Baby Claire Kennedy; Deirdre McNamara; Dan Murphy; Catherine & Patrick; Pauline Hackett; Lorcan & Celine Hogan; Peter Clarke; Michael & Mary Carroll; Colm Duggan; Marie Whelan;

And for Kay Fox 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
5 th December 2021	€715	€355

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.

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

Sunday 12th December 2021

Third Sunday of Advent: Pink for Joy

The third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. 'Gaudete' is the Latin word for 'rejoice' and you'll notice it is the first word in the opening antiphon of this Sunday's Mass.

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

You'll notice too that the readings and prayers are like a great chord of joy with words and phrases like.. 'be happy'.... 'rejoice'.... 'good news'.

We light the pink candle on the Advent wreath as a further resounding of this call to joy. There's no mistaking the message. Whatever is lacking, whatever calls for our waiting, whatever growth is called for in our lives by Advent's express call, let us be joyful in meeting the challenge.

The Church is careful to remind us in both our purple, and thereby penitential, seasons of Advent and Lent that although we're in a time of spiritual renewal both in our preparation for Christ's coming at Christmas and his victory over sin and death at Easter, these are essentially seasons of joy. We wait, aware that there is room for greater fulfilment but it is a waiting in joyful hope. Just as our Gaudete Sunday today reminds us to be joyful in our Advent preparation, so too there is on the fourth Sunday of Lent a day set aside for Joy, known as Laetare (be joyful) Sunday. Again, 'Laetare' is the first word of the opening antiphon of the Mass of that day also.

As Christians, we never look at the darkness in isolation from the light Christ brings to us in loving compassion. Indeed, the light shines all the more significantly in darkness. It's why the candle burning in the darkness is such a symbol of faith in the God of love, shining be it in the darkness of our sinful

failures, in the darkness of death, in the global darkness of pandemic and disease, in warfare, in injustice and the hurts of life.

‘Deliver us, Lord, from every evil as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.’

St Vincent de Paul Appeal

Today, as at all Masses in the diocese this weekend, we welcome members of the local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society who are making an annual appeal for the work of the society and for all who depend on them for basic necessities in life.

On our part as we welcome them it is an opportunity to thank both the local conference members for their dedicated service and the many parishioners who generously support their work in this important annual collection and also in their monthly church gate collection.

Today’s collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Society will take the place of the Share Collection and so will be appropriately placed in the white basket as you leave the church. The green basket is for the first collection, which is in support of the Common Fund.

Parish Pastoral Council Message

Due to the present Covid difficulties, the AGM of the PPC has been postponed until **Wednesday 26th January 2022** as a tentative date.

At that time, some of the members of the PPC will be stepping down, having finished their terms of office. We ask all parishioners to consider how they can contribute their talents to the running of our parish, and to perhaps consider serving on the PPC. If you are interested in serving this aspect of parish life, talk to Fr John.

The Rite of Reconciliation; Communal and Individual Rites

On Saturday next at 12 noon, there will be a celebration of Reconciliation in the Communal Rite at 12 noon in Star of the Sea Church. Then in the following week leading up to Christmas, Monday Dec 20th to Friday December 24th, there will be opportunity each day after the 10am Mass to celebrate the sacrament in the individual rite.

Christmas Schedule, Card and Christmas Dues delivery

We rely on kind parishioners to distribute the Christmas Cards, holding detail of Christmas arrangements, along with Christmas Dues envelopes, to parishioners’ homes. They will be ready for delivery early this week and we invite those who have kindly helped with this exercise in the past, along with any other volunteers, to

undertake the delivery task for us again at this time. If you can do so, please call to Mary in the office early this week.

We propose to celebrate Christmas Masses at the following times

Fri 24th December 6pm and 9pm; the 9pm Mass preceded by carols.

Sat 25th December 9.00am, 10.30am and 12 noon.

The Church will be at half capacity with every second row of seats out of use. All ceremonies will be on webcam and we strongly encourage people to avail of that service and join us at home. We decided not to undertake a raffle as we did last year. It involved a lot of work and in the end many who had received tickets didn’t turn up while the number disappointed in the raffle situation was significant. There was further upset when the government called for the closure of churches from Christmas Day onwards and ticketed Masses were then closed to the public. We appeal instead to everyone’s sense of responsibility at a time when the high rate of transmission of the virus remains a serious concern for us.

We continue to ask that people coming to ceremonies in the Church sanitize their hands on entry, wear masks and maintain social distance. The directions of movement, now long established in our gatherings are to be carefully upheld and anybody exhibiting symptoms are asked to stay at home.

We thank all who have done so well in keeping with these matters and particularly thank those who by using the webcam connection have enabled others to safely attend church gatherings.

Christmas Carol Service Sunday 19th Dec at 5pm

It has been great to see members of the choir make their way back to sing in church in recent weeks. We have missed them now for a long time. We look forward to the day when we can join together in congregational singing. Until then it’s a great help to have the choir lift our hearts in song.

We welcome the news this week that the choir will lead us in a carol service next Sunday at 5pm. We look forward to your joining us either at the church or at home through webcam.

Mary, our secretary retires

After 22 years of great service to the parish it is hard to get used to the idea that Mary will retire as our secretary in the days before Christmas. We can’t thank her enough for her kindly presence devoted to the life of the parish over a long time. We wish her every blessing in retirement and pray for her ongoing good health and happiness.

