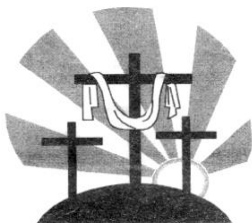


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of
David Byrne, Fergus Bolton and Gay O'Doherty who died recently.

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

*Fr. Tommy Murphy; Mary Hickland; Connell Cunningham; Frances Conway;
Michael & Mary Allen; Mary Kelly; Nance O'Connor; Margaret Cullen;
Liam Dignan; Itha O'Neill; Margaret Cullen;*

And for Cyril Stirrat 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
7 th June 2020	€105	€65

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 14th June 2020

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Corpus Christi Sunday

We're hopeful that within a couple of weeks we'll have opportunity to attend Mass and receive the Body of Christ again. Before that happens every detail of our planned opening of the church must meet standards set by the bishops and receive the approval of the Archbishop. A lot of work has to be done and volunteers will be in demand to oversee the implementation of proposed plans. If we're not ready we simply cannot open.

Today's feast day highlights the significance of Christ's presence to us; present in so many ways but with particular awareness of his presence in the Eucharist.

For three months now we have been denied the gift of Holy Communion in concern for public health and in this strange and sad time of Covid-19 many have expressed their loss of the precious experience of Eucharist. Thank God we're on the verge of gathering again to celebrate the gift of Christ: "This is my body; This is my blood."

While the struggle with Covid-19 is very much ongoing and we all need each other's cooperation in following HSE guidelines, the last three months have been an Exodus experience. Those of us over seventy have been isolated in our homes for much of that time, unable to meet family and friends, dependent on neighbours and friends to shop for us and missing contact with the young generation. Other younger adults have found themselves working

from home and trying to take care of children at the same time. The care of elderly family members has been a deep concern for many. A lot of what we comfortably took for granted has been taken from us. In times of normality and plenty it's amazing how much we take for granted.

What Moses said to the people in today's first reading has relevance for us. In times of material progress and relative comfort, our spiritual progress can suffer from neglect. We need to keep in mind that in the lean times of Exodus, the Lord provides for us as he did for people leaving the plenty of Egypt for the limitations of the desert on way to the promised land. We are called to remember that 'we don't live on bread alone but on every word from the mouth of God.' Something in these lean months of Covid is saying that to us. We have deeper hungers and thirsts that need God's help.

In the Gospel of today's feast, Jesus is saying that he himself is food and drink for our lives to satisfy deeper hungers and thirsts. In our coming to the Eucharist especially we recognise Jesus as the one who is 'the Bread of Life' and who invites us to take and eat. We come because 'if we don't eat his flesh and drink his blood we will not have life,' in us (Gospel). We come because in Paul's words 'we want to be in communion with the Body and Blood of Christ, our real food and real drink (2nd Reading today). We come to be in communion with the values he lived by. We come – to make our commitment to him. We commit ourselves to his values, to walk his ways. Let us treasure our celebration of the Body of Christ (Corpus Christi).

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The Parish Council will meet this Monday evening at 7.30pm.

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On-Line Donations to the Parish

There are 'donate' buttons on our website facilitating donations to the Parish, to the Common Fund, to Share or to the Easter Dues. We are grateful to those who have already opted to this way of donating. Some have experienced difficulty in the procedure and if this happens to you please contact us at the Parish office.

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Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month. Currently the maximum number in attendance in the Church under HSE guidelines is a total of 25 persons. In view of this we will only baptise one child at a time to avoid exceeding the number allowed. People who booked for earlier months and who wish to re-book are asked to contact the Parish office to establish a new date.

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Funerals

Since the Covid 19 restrictions have been in place only one funeral has come to the church. Other funerals in the Parish have gone directly to the graveside or crematorium with the priest in attendance. We have always been open to receiving funerals at the church although for some reason people have been misled in this information. Again, we continue to be open to receiving a funeral at the church and celebrating a funeral Mass within the restrictions set by HSE – that is a maximum of 25 persons, keeping the appropriate physical distancing.

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First Penance and First Communion

We won't be in a position to set dates for First Penance and First Communion celebrations until the schools return in September. With over 100 children involved and a likely ongoing set of restrictions in place we envisage there will be several small group celebrations in place of the 3 day celebrations for both sacraments that were originally intended.

Today being Corpus Christi was the intended day to bring all First Communicants of this year to lead the procession after Mass onto the lawn for Benediction. We pray for the children and their parents in a special way this weekend.

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Pope Francis Prayer to Mary amid Covid-19

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

Protectress of the people,
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.

For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*