

## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Michele Dalangin and Douglas Slattery who died this week.

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

Thomas & Mary Harding and their son Thomas; Christopher Murphy; Norah & Imelda Raleigh; Mary Connolly; Doreen Doyle; Samuel Clarke;

And for Peter Shaffrey 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
3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2021	€1,265	€928.50

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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845  
[www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Baptism of Jesus

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With today's Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, we come to the close of the triple Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Season.

This year the season of Epiphany has lasted only five days but many of our parishioners may recall when Epiphany spanned across two Sundays after January 6<sup>th</sup>. On January 6<sup>th</sup> the Gospel story of the wise men from the East was centre-stage, presenting Jesus as the guiding light to all the nations. On the following Sunday the Gospel of the Marriage Feast of Cana used to be read with the Gospel relating the Baptism of Jesus set for the following Sunday again. The accounts of the first miracle in Jesus' ministry and the baptism on the first day of his public ministry were moments of epiphany, manifestations of the significance of Jesus among us.

While the Epiphany Season was shortened by a week, you'll notice that next Sunday, the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Gospel will be that of the Marriage at Cana, retaining a touch of the old Epiphany season. And thereafter for this year, the Gospel readings on Sunday will be a continuous reading of St Mark's Gospel. It will be so until Lent and then after Easter and Pentecost, we'll resume again the reading from St Mark's Gospel.

Going down into the waters of the Jordan to be baptised by John the Baptist was a very significant step of Jesus at the beginning of his public life. It was an act of identification. Jesus was identifying himself with humanity in its totality of good, bad and indifferent. He was in our humanity to bring hope and salvation. As Paul puts it in his letter to the Christian community in Philippi: 'He didn't count equality with God, a thing to be grasped...but emptied himself'.

On the other hand, when we bring ourselves to the waters of Baptism, we identify with Jesus, pledging to walk in his ways, in love of God and of our neighbour. We do so in hopeful anticipation of sharing glory with him. All the efforts of a Christian life flow from the commitment of our Baptism both in the vision of life it holds for us and in the firm commitment to follow Jesus in the way we live. 'You are a member of the Body of Christ, sharing everlasting life.'

A particularly unfortunate aspect of Covid and its related restrictions this year has been the inability to meet the desire of parents to see their new-born babies baptised. There is a growing waiting list which we will address as soon as opportunity allows us to do so. Meanwhile, parents may wish to apply for placement on that waiting list.

#### Funerals during Covid Restrictions

Parishioners will know that currently only 10 persons in total may attend a funeral in a church. The same ruling applies at a crematorium. We appreciate what a difficult burden this places on grieving families.

We also recognise from reports of the HSE that funerals are the occasion of unfortunate transmission of the virus.

While we fully understand the desire of people to be supportive, we appeal to all that it's not appropriate at this time to be gathered outside the church when a bereaved family follow a coffin to the hearse before going to a graveyard or crematorium. It puts added pressure on the bereaved to be approached at a time when each one has been asked to consider themselves as possible carriers of the virus. The situation for public health is far too serious at present to neglect what we're all asked to do and insensitive also to a family who painfully decide who may come and who may not come from their own family circle. There are ways to safely express condolence and lend support. Please avail of them instead.

Church Unity Octave begins on Monday Week, Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to Jan 25<sup>th</sup>.

We thank all who in generosity have sent in Christmas Dues Envelopes. At a critical time for diocesan finances they are greatly appreciated.

#### A Prayer at the close of the Epiphany Season

When the song of the angels has been stilled,  
when the star has gone from the night sky,  
when the kings have reached their far shores,  
when the shepherds have returned to their flocks,  
then the work of Christmas really begins:  
to find those who are lost,  
to heal those who are broken in spirit,  
to feed those who are hungry, to release those  
who are oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations torn by strife,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to bring the light of the Gospel  
into the darkest corners of our world.

We pray that we might radiate the light of Christ,  
through the kindness of our presence  
and the determination of our purpose  
every day of our lives.

Amen.

(Denis Mc Bride: 'Journeying towards Jesus in Advent')

#### Parish Office; closed to the public for the time being

Because of the current seriousness of concern for public health, we have decided to close the parish office to the public for the time being. However, parishioners are invited to leave a message on the phone (01 6683316 or 01 6683894) or to contact Fr John (01 6684265/0876294325) or Fr Cormac (01 6686845) for any services required. Phone messages to the parish office will be checked daily and responded to.

We are happy to facilitate the booking of Masses, the provision of Baptism application forms and Statement of Freedom Forms for those planning a marriage in the coming months, the procurement of Certificates, or of items from the shop such as Mass cards, or the weekly editions of the Tablet or the monthly magazines such as Reality and Messenger. We can arrange the safe collection of items as needed and should a payment be involved it can be made appropriately by dropping an envelope through the parish office letter box. Newspapers like the Irish Catholic are at the back of the Church but should not be handled unless purchased and taken home. For those in preparation for marriage it is best that they contact Fr John or Fr Cormac directly to arrange appropriate meetings.

As schooling on line begins again tomorrow we pray for its success and that along with the challenge it sets for teachers and children everyone will be able to learn well.