



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Patricia Leonard and Eugene Brett who died this week.

And also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Thomas Bolger and also remembering his wife Marie who died recently.

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	Share
3 rd October 2021	€720	€260

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.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The members of the Society would like to thank parishioners who supported their church gate collection last weekend which amounted to €1,510.

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 10th October 2021

Synodal Pathway

Today, in Rome, Pope Francis is opening a two year' synodal journey of the Universal Church. The word 'synodal' comes from Greek and means 'walking together'. The title of the journey Pope Francis has begun with us is '**For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission**'. This journey will proceed in three phases of consultations and discernment, diocesan, continental and universal, culminating in a Synodal Assembly in Rome in 2023.

The Irish Bishops earlier this year also announced preparations for a National Synodal Assembly to be held in the next five years, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities the Church in Ireland is facing in a rapidly changing society.

There will be three strands to the synodal process we are all invited to engage in.

- The Universal Synod 2021-2023, after which a process of universal dissemination of outcomes takes place
- The Diocesan Synodal Phase, October '21- April '22. In April '22 the focus will move to the Continental Phase-seeking in our case the voice of Europe
- The Irish Synodal Pathway 2021-2026, leading to a National Synod for Ireland.

It's important to emphasise the place of prayer in this process, our listening together to what the Holy Spirit is asking of us in this time in history, reading the signs of the times and taking stock of the vulnerability of the Church, thrown by scandals that have shocked us, by a pandemic that has greatly affected the life of the Church, by the serious decline in vocations to priesthood, by the loss of faith among many people and by increasing vulnerability of the Church to persecution

and suffering in many places and to increased secularisation of society in general. The telling question is ‘what is God asking of us all now?’, and the answer is to be found in prayerful discernment together. It isn’t a time for contentious debate and political activism so much as it’s a time for prayerful discernment together that leads ultimately to change and action. What is God asking of us today? Discerning the right path ‘led by God’, not led by ourselves, is the task of all the baptised; a task in which ‘All’ means ‘All’, to include those who are or feel distant from the Christian community.

Next Sunday, October 17th, every diocese worldwide is asked to open the Synodal Process locally. Archbishop Farrell will do so at a 3pm assembly in the Pro-Cathedral, to which one representative from each of our 199 parishes is invited to attend. This synodal process coincides with the start of the two year Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland leading to the Rome Assembly in 2023 but also will lead in time to a National Assembly in Ireland by 2026. The Pathway is part of a world-wide movement in the Church to put a synodal shape on the Church’s identity everywhere. It is a major undertaking by Pope Francis to renew the Church and build on the work of the Second Vatican Council sixty years ago.

We hope and pray that the next two years will be a time of prayer, listening and discernment in consultative conversation, always open to the Holy Spirit. At national level it will allow all people-both within the Church and in wider society to share their insights into the Church in Ireland so that we can prepare for a National Synodal Assembly in the coming years. Pope Francis wants to put a synodal, ‘walking together’, shape on our experience of the Church, here and everywhere in our world. We pray for its success.

First Communion celebrations next Saturday

We look forward this coming Saturday to our celebrations of First Holy Communion with the boys from Star of the Sea at 10am and the girls from Scoil Mhuire at 12 noon. Unfortunately, with attendance confined ,because of the need for social distancing, to a child and his/her parents, we won’t have a public Mass on Saturday morning as we usually do. Parishioners may join our celebrations on webcam. The Saturday evening vigil Mass at 6pm will be celebrated as usual.

During this week also we welcome children, now in fourth class, who come to celebrate First Reconciliation for the first time.

Sacramental Preparation for children in non-Catholic schools

The preparation for the sacraments in Catholic schools takes place over two years, both for First Communion and Confirmation. Correspondingly, children in non-Catholic schools are asked to complete a two year preparation programme also, although their classes are held only once a week. Parents of children in the non-

Catholic schools should accordingly contact the parish 2 years in advance if they wish their child to prepare for the sacraments.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday at 7.30pm in the Church.

Autumn Prayer

O God of Creation,
you bless us with the changing of the seasons.
As we welcome the Autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take some rest.
May the brilliant colours of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.
May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields
remind us of the abundance we have been given
and the bounty we are called to share with others.
May the dying of summer’s spirit
remind us of your great promise that death is temporary
and life is eternal.
We praise you for your goodness
For ever and ever.

Sanitising the church

As you are aware, since March 2019, the church has been sanitised after each Mass by a team of dedicated volunteers. We are all most grateful to them for their unflinching service – to keep us all safe.

As times change, the practices in the parish will reflect that.

We will continue sanitising the church after each Mass until 22nd October, and would ask for your continued support in this activity. After that date, other arrangements will be put in place.

At Masses attended by small numbers, it will help if people sit close to the end of a seat and place a piece of coloured paper from the basket left at the entrance area to indicate to those sanitising where their cleaning action is required, rather than cleaning all the seats.

