### REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for Fr Geoff Nevin and Fr Eddie Griffen who have died and for the following whose anniversaries occur; Francie, Ivor, John and Frank Smith and Sandra Carroll, Maisie Butler, Doreen Reynolds, Don Sheridan and Phyllis Cronin.

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** | **WHITE BASKET**  |
| **Feb 5th 2023**  | **€1,165** | **€ 556** |

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of

poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your ongoing support and generosity.

St Vincent de Paul collection raised €967 at last weekend’s church gate collection. Your support is greatly appreciated.

***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.comRCN20016166

**February 12th 2023**

**Matthew – Gospel for Jewish Christians**

As we read St Matthews Gospel piece by piece this year on Sundays, it would be a great benefit to take time out to read it through afresh in one sitting. It will help us to reflect on the Sunday passages as we meet them.

Matthew’s is the Gospel that is the most Jewish of the four Gospels. You might recall that it is Matthew who relates the story of the Flight into Egypt. It was important for his purposes to present Jesus as the New Moses, coming like Moses out of Egypt. The painting by Giovanni Battista Peggi, a copy of which is in our church, paints that scene of Jesus and his parents coming back from Egypt. It’s one that’s rarely depicted in the long history of religious art but a scene that is important to Matthew.

Matthew refers constantly to the Hebrew scriptures: more than 130 times in all. Some 43 of them are direct quotations and 11 are introduced with the same formula – ‘this happened that the saying of the Lord by the prophet might be fulfilled ...’ His audience of Jewish background was familiar with these scripture texts unlike a Christian community of Gentile background unfamiliar with them. Matthew confirms their belief that Jesus is the expected one, the Messiah. For Mark and Luke, writing for a community of Gentile Christians, familiarity with Hebrew scriptures could not be assumed and their references to

the Scriptures are far less frequent.  **cont’d overleaf**

Matthew is a teacher. He rearranges the words of Jesus into five great speeches in his Gospel. Again, this is in keeping with his desire to present Jesus as the New Moses. The five speeches stand in comparison to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, which Jewish culture attributed to Moses. Matthew is a true Rabbi. He combines passages of the Hebrew scriptures to produce a suitable quotation. For example in describing the death of Judas (Mt 27.v9) he draws on two prophets – Zechariah (chi 11, v12) and Jeremiah (chi 18.v2). Again to highlight the significance of Jesus entering Jerusalem as Messiah (Mt chi 21: v1-19), he draws on Zechariah (chi 9.v9) and Isaiah (chi 62. v11).

And his style is Jewish. He talks of the Kingdom of Heaven rather than the Kingdom of God (out of respect for Jews not pronouncing the name of God). He is also in Jewish style when his tendency is to choose numerical groupings: 7 petitions of the Our Father, 7 parables brought together, 7 loaves and baskets, 3 temptations, 3 good works, 3 tithes. His Christian faith makes him see Jesus as the glorified Lord. At the beginning and throughout the Gospel he proclaims Jesus to be the Son of God whose majesty and authority are transparent.

**Prayer for the People of Turkey and Syria**

More than 20,000 people died, and countless others were injured last Monday morning, during one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the regions of Turkey and Syria. Pope Francis and Church leaders reacted with dismay and call for prayer following the devastating earthquake. A deeply saddened Pope Francis sent “heartfelt condolences to those who mourn their loss.” He prayed “that the emergency personnel would be sustained in their care of the injured and in the ongoing relief efforts by the divine gifts of fortitude and perseverance.” The Pope also affirmed “his spiritual solidarity” with the “long-suffering Syrian people.” In the midst of the death and trauma caused by this terrible tragedy, we, too, join in prayer and solidarity this weekend with all who have been affected.

**St Valentine**

Mass will be celebrated in the Carmelite Church at Whitefriar St next Tuesday, Valentine’s Day at 11.30am and 3pm with celebrant and teacher Fr Simon Nolan, O Carm, Prior of Whitefriar St.

Church will remain open until the beginning of perpetual Adoration at 8pm.

**Do this in Memory**

This Sunday at 10.30am we welcome again the children and their parents who are preparing for First Communion. We thank parents for sharing pages 18 and 19 with their child in the time since our last ‘Do this in Memory’ Mass in January. After today’s Mass we ask parents to continue explaining the Mass by reading pages 20 and 21 to their child. You’ll notice that we’re moving towards the Offertory of the Mass. In last month’s Grapevine 5, there was a focus on the response we make: ‘’Blessed be God for ever’’, to the prayers said at Offertory time.

The children are asked after today’s Mass to complete the exercise on page 56 and then beginning on Ash Wednesday, only 10 days away, to complete the Stepping Stones exercise through the days of Lent, one step at a time.

Grapevine 6 will be available early this week while children beginning a mid-term now might collect a copy at the end of Mass today.

**Accord Collection**

The annual collection for Accord Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses on the weekend of **February 11 and 12**. Accord Dublin throughout the diocese offers Marriage Preparation courses – online, small groups; Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, currently online or by phone; and a Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. Accord Dublin needs your support this year more than ever. Please give generously on February 11 and 12.

**Lent**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 22nd Feb. Ashes will be blessed and distributed during all Masses. We wish everyone well in making Lent a time of spiritual renewal and of preparation for the great feast of Easter.

**Online Lenten Retreat.**

The Priory Institute is offering a free online retreat 'Reflecting on the Sunday Gospels of Lent as Stepping Stones on our Journey to East’ visit www.priory institute.

**Annual Day of Prayer**

The Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors and Victims of Abuse is an initiative of Pope Francis and is held on the First Friday of Lent, which falls **on February 24** this year.

**Mercy Int Centre retreats**

The Mercy centre is offering two in person retreats. A Spirituality Renewal Retreat: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matt 11:28. This gentle 5-day retreat will consist of reflection on scripture; guided meditation; art journaling; personal time and space and spiritual accompaniment. Refresh your spirit, re-discovering balance and wholeness in the gentleness of silence from Sun 23rd - Friday 28th April Residential: 575 euro (Accommodation & all meals provided). Non-residential:  290 euro (Lunch provided). And a Contemplative Practices Weekend - this weekend allows time to reconnect with the silence within. This short retreat will explore a variety of contemplative practices - guided meditation; lectio divina; visio divina; centering prayer; contemplative walk - while also providing time and space for personal reflection. Spiritual direction will be available. Friday 31st March - Sunday 2nd April. Residential: 280 euro (Accommodation & all meals provided). Non-residential: 90 euro (Lunch provided).programmes@mercyinternational.ie.