



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the repose of the souls of
Laura O'Shea, Joseph Ledwidge and Ettie Clinton, who died recently
and also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Jim McDonagh, Kitty O'Connor, Alice & Des Brennan, Larry Whelan,
Jane, James & Sammy Rigley, Dan Murphy, Annie & Christopher Stanley,
Deceased members of Kane & Whelan families, Elenita Embido,
Jacqueline & Anne Lejeune, Maura O'Connor Hannon, Jane Dunwoody,

*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
8 th December 2017	€300	€270
10 th December 2017	€1,350	SVP - €16,795

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese.

The white basket collection last weekend was the special annual collection for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

Mission Sunday Collection

World Missions Ireland have written to us with grateful appreciation of €3,595 raised in the Mission Sunday Collection at Star of the Sea. Well done for such a generous response.

WEEKLY BULLETIN



St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Sandymount

Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Monday to Friday 9.30 – 12.30

Fr. John McDonagh, P.P., Tel: 6684265

Fr. Cormac McIlraith, P.C., Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Third Sunday of Advent, 17th December 2017

The Pink Candle

The Advent Wreath is a symbol of what we celebrate in this special season. We share once more the longing for God's coming and the conversion which prepares for it. Advent is a way of experiencing more and more fully how God comes to us in our darkness. Its primary focus is on the coming of the Lord into the world which took place once for all. But it also attends to his coming into our human fellowship here and now. It points also to his great coming – at the end of time.



The purple candles on the wreath strike the note of conversion. For most of us that spells an uphill challenge to overcome our weaknesses and to grow in time-related virtues like 'hope', 'perseverance', 'courage' or 'patience'. These virtues are especially pertinent to the Advent season as we ready ourselves to welcome the Lord who comes.

The pink candle, which we light today, strikes a note of joy. It reminds us that, amid all our uphill struggles (purple) in life, our climbing efforts are not a grim exercise. We rest in the love of God symbolised by the evergreen wreath. In pain, perplexity and fear and even when we feel abandoned by God there is still something of this joy in the depths of our hearts. "No one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22).

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2017

Carol Service: Sunday 17th December at 5.00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Communal Rite: Thursday 21st December at 7.30pm

Individual Rite:

Thursday 21st Dec. after 10.00am Mass.

Friday 22nd Dec. after 10.00am Mass.

Saturday 23rd Dec. after 10.00am Mass and at 5.00pm

Sunday 24th December Saturday Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am, 10.30am and 12 Noon.

Children's Christmas Prayer Drama

Sunday 24th December at 3.00pm

Masses in celebration of Christmas

Sunday 24th December:

6.00 p.m. Vigil Mass for Christmas

9.00 p.m. Night Mass for Christmas

Monday 25th December

Masses at 9.00 a.m., 10.30 a.m. (Family Mass) and 12 noon (Choir)

NO EVENING MASS on Christmas Day

From Tuesday 26th December to Monday 1st January - Mass at 10.00a.m. only, with normal Sunday schedule on December 30th / 31st. Feast of the Epiphany, Mass on Friday January 5th at 6.00pm and on Saturday January 6th at 10.00am and 12.00 Noon.

The 7.30a.m. weekday Mass resumes on January 2nd 2018.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We look forward to seeing you all this Sunday afternoon in Star of the Sea church at **5.00pm** for our Annual Parish Choir Carol Service to help us all get into the spirit of Christmas and a very special word of thanks to the parishioner who donated the Banner at the front of the church!

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Ministers of the Eucharist

Ministers of the Eucharist who are available to help out at the Christmas Masses are asked to complete the Roster sheet which is on the table at the back of the church this weekend.

Towards Peace

The vision of Towards Peace is to provide a safe supportive space where people who have been affected by abuse in a Church context can be accompanied, as they seek their own experience of spiritual peace, one step at a time.

This experience of this support group has been that the Towards Peace website www.towardspeace.ie received the most visits around Christmas and New Year. Towards Peace provides a spiritual direction service. Survivors of abuse by Church related persons and members of survivors families may wish to avail of up to nine sessions, free of charge, with a specially trained spiritual companion. Phone 01 5053028.

E: towardspeace@iecon.ie W: www.towardspeace.ie

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Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in January will be held on Tuesday, 2nd January, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in January will be on Sundays January 7th and 21st, after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of this Monday and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Because it occasionally arises as a question, we confirm that godmother and godfather should be of each gender and that godparents must be over 16 and practising Catholics, at home in their faith. While normally we have two godparents, it is sufficient to have just one. Another may act as a witness rather than a godparent in that situation.

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Advent Evening Prayer

The Advent Evening Prayer continues this Tuesday evening at 6.30pm.

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'Do This in Memory'

We welcome all the First Communion children and parents to our 'Do This in Memory' Mass this Sunday. Our next Mass will be on Sunday, 14th January, at 10.30am. Over the Christmas period children might like to work on pages 50-53 in Thumbs - looking at the 12 days of Christmas. In preparation for 14th January the relevant pages are 16 and 17, 48 and 49. We look forward to Family Mass on Christmas Day at 10.30am.

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul Annual Collection

The members of the Society would like to warn people about bogus callers to their doors. €16,795 was collected at Masses last weekend. They are very grateful for your wonderful response to their Christmas appeal and they will not be collecting again until February 2018.