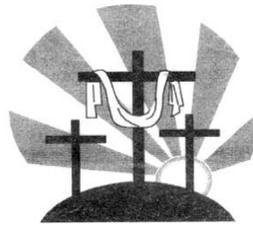


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Anne Kenny and Peter Whearity who have died and for Timothy O'Donnell, John Doyle, William Stokes, Doreen Reynolds, Jeremiah Lincoln, Liam O'Dwyer, Edmund Lennon and Nora Lincoln whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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	WHITE BASKET
14 th Feb 2024	€1135	€795

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund. The white basket is normally 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
RCN2001616

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

18th February 2024

ACCORD

In 2023, while only two marriages were celebrated in our parish church, it was heartening to see more than 30 parishioners coming to prepare for the celebration of their marriages as sacramental. The loving kindness of husband and wife is a living sign of God's love for humanity; their faithfulness, a living sign of God's faithfulness. Most of those preparing for marriage were very happy to participate in Accord's pre-marriage course. In his letter to us all on this Accord Sunday, the Archbishop wrote the following: -

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Often in our culture, the Church's teaching on marriage and family life are presented in a negative tone. Yet the basics of family life and love are what so many in our world dream of and seek to realise.

For over 60 years our diocesan agency for marriage and relationship care, Accord Dublin, exists to support people, young and old, realise this dream. It does not work with a rulebook, but helps people find within themselves the ability to discern, to look at their own attitudes and relationships, and to see them in a different way, in the light of the message of Jesus Christ.

- In primary and secondary schools, Accord Dublin helps students acquire an understanding of healthy human relationships and sexuality through its RSE programmes.
- Couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage have the opportunity to reflect on their relationship and prepare their future lives together through Accord Dublin's marriage education programmes.

- And when times get tough, Accord Dublin's counselling service is there to help individuals and couples explore, reflect upon and positively resolve any relationship difficulties they may be experiencing so that they and their families can live happy, healthy lives again.

Accord Dublin's marriage and relationship services are open to everyone in need. Feedback from people who have experienced the services have been consistently very positive year in, year out. With the pressures of our world and society, we know that couples and families are struggling day to day. Accord Dublin's marriage and relationship care is needed now more than ever. It is for this reason that I ask you to support the work of Accord Dublin at this annual collection and to spread the word to all in need that Accord Dublin is there for them.

Life is not easy; we need to know that there is help along the way.

I pray for God's blessing on you and your families.

Please support the ACCORD annual collection which takes place at all Masses this weekend and will replace the SHARE collection.

Cuppa after Mass

We'd love to see you for a coffee or tea after 12 noon Mass on 1st Sunday of each month, if you are not rushing away. We are starting on 3rd March 2024. Tea and coffee will be served at the back of the church beside the bookshop. Please stop and say hi. Everyone is most welcome!

Do this in Memory

On Saturday next, at 9am, the parents' planning group, will meet at the church meeting room to prepare the Mass for the 'Do this in Memory' gathering on Sunday week, March 3rd.

Women's Day of Prayer

On Friday, March 1st, at 11.30am, there will be a lovely occasion of ecumenical prayer when our church will be hosting the Women's Day of Prayer, From across Christian traditions women gather to pray. The motto for this year is "*I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love*" and was nominated by women in Palestine.

Ceremony of Light

On Monday, March 4th, the Ceremony of Light for 70 young people to be confirmed on March 14th, and their parents, will be held in our church. We invite all to pray for these young candidates.

Evening Prayer in Lent

On the Tuesdays of Lent beginning this Tuesday, Evening Prayer of the Church will be celebrated at 6pm. All are welcome.

After Evening Prayer, Pat Talbot will lead a weekly Lectio Divina on the Gospel of the following Sunday in the Church Meeting Room at 6.30pm.

Day of Retreat in Lent

A lovely opportunity arises for us all in sharing in a day's retreat at the nearby Avila Carmelite Centre in Donnybrook. Fr Donal Neary SJ will lead us in reflection and prayer. Fr Donal is the editor of Sacred Heart Messenger. He has written several spiritual books and has served as chaplain and spiritual director to many college students. It promises to be a lovely day in the heart of Lent, a day to link with the Lord and with fellow parishioners.

Family Carers

Are you caring for a loved one at home with additional needs? A spouse, partner, child, close relative or neighbour? Then you are a family carer! Become a member of Family Carers Ireland, the national charity supporting Ireland's 500,000+ family carers nationwide. Contact 057 93 70221 and hear how we can support you or for more info visit www.familycarers.ie.

Just Lent 2024

Another interesting programme is offered this Lent by the Diocesan Office of Mission and Ministry entitled 'Just Lent' with a strong emphasis on 'Social Justice'. The programme will run for the six weeks of Lent following the theme of each Sunday's readings. This week's theme is 'Flood and Desert' and a copy of the reflection is available at the back of the church.

Prayer for Lent

Loving God, in this season of Lent
you call us to act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with each other
so that we can build your Kingdom of justice and
peace
your Kingdom of love and truth,
your Kingdom of holiness and grace,
in our world today. AMEN.

Date for your diary - Divine Mercy Conference

The Annual Divine Mercy Conference will take place in the RDS, from Feb 23-25 incl. Lots more information via www.divinemercyconference.com