

REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Evelyn Wall whose funeral took place this week;

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

Lily James; Patrick & Marie Keeley; Tony Harnett; Damian Reade; Samuel Clarke; Nuala Sullivan; Barrie Heffernan; Anne Hancock; Mary Kiernan; Gabriella & Diego Jaramillo; Kathleen Moran, Patty, Willie & Des Nelson; Mona, Sadie & Nellie O'Connell;

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
24 th November 2019	€1,455	€1,120

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

Sunday 1st December 2019

Advent Begins

It's a frequently sounded question, especially on Radio these days: 'When does Christmas begin?' It's usually a case of the presenter asking 'When is it appropriate to play Christmas music?' 'The Toy Show?' December 8th? the Messiah performance?, and other markers enter the debate.

In the weeks up to Christmas the children have Nativity Plays and sing Carols in school. Christmas trees enter the arena earlier these years and shops are understandably geared for the gift buying season, aglow with festive decoration and music.

On another level it's good to remember that Christmas begins on Christmas Day and lasts twelve days until January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany. These are the days at the heart of Christmas celebration.

Before then the four preceding Sundays and intervening days are in the related but different season of Advent. It's the Season of 'hopeful waiting' when we anticipate the Coming of Christ and nurture the virtues of hope, perseverance, patience and openness to the Word of God. Like Lent it is a time of renewal before the Great Feast. Reflecting with the prophets, St. John the Baptist and Mary, there is a spiritual journey for all of us in Advent which we should try to uphold even if the sounds of Christmas come earlier, and the prevailing culture crowds it out each year. Advent brings its own Adventure. Try to enter it in prayer.

Baptisms in January

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in January will be held on Monday 30th December, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in January will be on Sunday January 5th and 19th after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 30th 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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Ceremony of Commitment

The young people in Scoil Mhuire, Star of the Sea and St. Matthew's schools who are preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation in March are all invited along with their parents to the Ceremony of Commitment here in Star of the Sea Church this Tuesday, December 3rd, at 7.30pm.

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Evening Prayer (Vespers) in Advent

On the three Tuesday evenings of this year's Advent, Tuesday 3rd December, 10th December and 17th December at 6.30pm we invite you to come to the communal celebration of the Evening Prayer of the Church.

It is a simple yet inspiring way of preparing for Christmas and well worth the time. Both young and old are invited. Father John or Fr. Cormac will preside, the Franciscan Sisters and some parishioners will lead and take the part of cantor. We need your support. Please, come along with your family and friends. All will be able to join in and it will be no more than half an hour of praise and prayers to God. All welcome.

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Annual Christmas Festival

Star of the Sea BNS Christmas Festival - always a great day out, is taking place today, Sunday 1st December, 11am to 1.30pm in the school hall beside the church.

Tombola, cakes, cranberry sauce, Christmas decorations, raffle, Jungle Dave, Planetarium & lots of fun. All are welcome!

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Thank You

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

Supporting the Parish

Parishioners are often surprised to hear that collections at Mass, and Christmas and Easter Dues do not go to the upkeep of a parish but to the Diocesan Common Fund enabling the support of priests and to the Share Fund, supporting both the poorer parishes and the central diocesan offices.

We're very grateful to all who directly support the parish through a weekly envelope collection or through standing orders at specified intervals. Should you wish to avail of the weekly envelope or the form to initiate a regular donation, please don't hesitate to let us know. You may wish to review the amount you give in donation at this time, as we approach the financial year end on December 31st.

As you know, a traceable donation of €250 or more enables the parish to avail of a tax rebate. This is a good time to review our donations so far this year. It's a pity to find a donation total that's only a couple of Euros short of €250 when for the sake of a small amount, €250 becomes €362 with the benefit of a rebate. It's the sum total of Christmas and Easter dues along with the total in envelope collections, standing orders or recorded once off donations that counts.

Our sincere thanks to all who generously support the parish.

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ST.VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Society's special Christmas Church collection will take the place of the Share collection at all Masses in the parish next weekend, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th December, 2019.

We are very aware that you may be somebody/or know somebody who is in need of assistance. If so please make contact in confidence:

- Through the main St. Vincent de Paul Office at (01) 8550022 and they will notify us.
- By leaving a note (in an envelope addressed to us) in the parish office.
- By phoning our local helpline 086 8461273, for assistance.

Crosscare has decided to postpone their usual pre-Christmas food collection to another date in the new year.

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Copies of the Share Annual Report are available at the back of the church. The Archbishop thanks all who contributed to Share last year.

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We thank the young people who this year have created a Jesse Tree for us. Each week in Advent we add symbols of the great personalities of hope that preceded the coming of Jesus.

