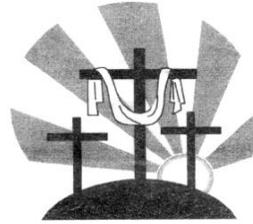


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Sandra Carroll, Mary Butler, Niall Mac Fhionnlaoich and Fr Donal O'Doherty, a priest of our diocese, who died this week and for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur: Brendan Mackey, Harry Broderick, Sadie and Jimmy Rigley, Mary Murphy, William Stokes and Edward Lennon.

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	ACCORD
13 th Feb '22	€500	€930

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

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

Thank you for generous support of last week's Accord collection.

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

Sunday 20th February '22

'Be compassionate as your heavenly Father is compassionate' Lk 6:36

These words from this Sunday's Gospel are a timely pointer as parishes in the diocese begin to hold Synodal gatherings. These meetings in every parish are not debate sessions of argument and counter argument but listening exercises. The quality of our attention to one another will be absolutely crucial in the Synodal pathway.

Careful listening helps us to understand the other person, to stand in their shoes and their experiences. When we really listen, we listen to understand in an open, loving and compassionate way.

Holy Spirit, as we gather together in your name, guide our listening that we may receive others with respect, for we are to love our neighbour as ourselves.

At our Parish Council meeting this week we identified Wed 30th March at 7.30pm and Sunday April 3rd at 4pm as the two dates for our Synodal Gathering in Sandymount. Both meetings will be held in Scoil Mhuire.

Synodal Pathway

A fruitful discussion was led by Deirdre Seaver, our Synod Animator, at last Monday's Pastoral Council meeting. Deirdre outlined the process involved in parish meetings towards the Synod and identified two alternative meeting times, one in daylight and the other at evening time, on Sunday April 3rd at 4pm and on Wed evening, March 30th. The Council opted for two such alternative meetings one may attend, at each of which the full range of synod related questions will be addressed rather than treating those four questions over two meetings as in two Sunday gatherings and two weekday gatherings. It meant the holding of two meetings rather than four, which some parishes have opted for. In their wisdom, our Council has opted for two. We are grateful to all who responded to the invitation of last Sunday to indicate your preference for a Sunday afternoon or a weekday evening meeting. There was a similar number of green and yellow tickets (25/27) in the box, prompting our holding meetings on both a weekday and a Sunday. Thanks very much for your help in this.



Lectio Divina: Parishioners might be interested in a Lectio Divina on Zoom planned for Tuesday evenings 8pm to 9pm during Lent. A local man who trained in Lectio Divina at All Hallows College leads the group. It is a lovely way of praying with the Scriptures. If interested let us know at 6683316.

Classes for Sacramental Preparation

Classes for children 2nd and 3rd classes of non Catholic schools will continue after this week's mid-term break on Tuesdays at 2.45pm. We are hoping to begin classes for 1st and 5th when teachers are found. A zoom class, organised by parents is planned for those in 6th class, anticipating a Confirmation celebration in Autumn. We're asking parents to take a greater responsibility for the organisation of these classes

Report of the Building Hope Task Force

You can access the Report of the Task Force established by Bishop Farrell last April to assess and advise on future direction in the diocese by going to the Dublin diocesan website

Meeting of New Parish Council

At our Parish Pastoral Council on Monday last, Anne Bacon was elected our new chairperson of the Pastoral Council and Mary Murphy its secretary. Both have one more year to serve in their term on the Council while all the other members are newly elected to serve for three years. We thank all for their willing service and pray God's blessing on all their undertakings.

A saint for this week

Next Wednesday is the Feast Day of St Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. Smyrna is the ancient name of the city of Izmir in modern day Turkey. Born in 69AD, he was martyred in 161 at Smyrna, when he was 92 years old. Polycarp was a disciple of St John, the apostle, and in turn he was the teacher of St Irenaeus, one of the great Fathers of the Church. Irenaeus wrote to a friend of his, Florinus, who had entered a group that held false teaching. He reminded Florinus that when they were both children they had listened to Polycarp:

'I can describe the place where Blessed Polycarp sat and talked; his goings out and comings in, the character of his life, his personal appearance, his addresses to crowded congregations. I remember how he spoke of his relationship with John and with the others who had seen the Lord; how he repeated their words from memory, and how the things that he had heard them say about the Lord, his miracles and his teaching, things that he had heard direct from eye-witnesses of the Word of life, were proclaimed by Polycarp in complete harmony with Scripture. To these things I listened eagerly at that time, by the mercy of God shown to me, not committing them to writing but learning them by heart. By God's grace I constantly and conscientiously ruminate on them, and I can bear witness before God that if any such suggestion had come to the ears of that blessed and apostolic presbyter (*priest*) he would have cried out and stopped his ears...' Reported by Eusebius of Caesarea in Church History, V, 20,6f