

## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

*Sean Edward Mulholland; Brian Uiterwaal; Mary Hickland; Philip Dobson; Anne Dobson Miller; Mary Lennon; Eoin Coakley; Terry Crowley; Deceased members of the Sheahan family; Deceased members of the Mulvihill family.*

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	SHARE
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	€145	€90

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](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com)

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020

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### *Getting ready to re-open*

Subject to the Archbishop's approval of our state of readiness we hope to resume public Masses within restrictions set by the HSE on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>, Monday week. We look forward with enthusiasm to meeting parishioners again after months of isolation but we're also concerned that we proceed with great care and caution to ensure the health and safety of everyone. The deadly virus remains a reality for us and we owe it to one another to do all that is possible to be safe.

We are grateful to the parish Pastoral Council whose members have undertaken a steering role in our preparations and to those who have offered their assistance in the weeks and months ahead as we seek a return to more 'normal' life.

A number of things should be kept in mind:

1. Know that the number of places available in the church are severely restricted under present standards set by the HSE and the government. With 2 metre distancing only 80 seating units are available in the church. Effectively it means one in every three pews are usable with only two persons (2 units) in a pew. A household group might take a full seat (2 seating units), a couple seated together might see room for one other person 2 metres away (2 units) on their pew but otherwise only two

2. persons may be seated in a pew, separated by 2 metres. With numbers so restricted it is quite possible when you arrive at the church there will be no room left. Please understand this as a possibility. We are bound by the restrictions set for our safety by the Government and HSE. In this respect you might consider
  - (a) At present the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is dispensed with. You might consider coming to Mass and receiving the Eucharist on a weekday instead. If everyone who desires it has a once a week opportunity to receive Holy Communion it's a vision to hold at this time.
  - (b) If you have access to webcam transmission you might consider its use to allow parishioners without internet access a chance to come to the church. We welcome your coming to church but we want you to understand the restrictions and not be unduly disappointed if unable to enter.
3. The church main door will be the only entrance area and the two side doors at the altar end will be the only exit doors in use. At no stage should a parishioner find himself / herself moving in an opposite direction to the flow. With the assistance of ushers people's movements will be guided to and from their seat. Toilet facilities will not be available at Mass time. Initially too the shop will be closed and it will not be appropriate to light candles. Later in the day may facilitate that.
4. At Communion time, two circular movements of parishioners beginning with those seated in side aisles, will be overseen by ushers, seat by seat, to approach the Eucharistic minister in an 'up the centre down the side aisle movement'.
5. Because a cleaning of the church must take place after each Mass only the wooden seats may be used; cloth covered chairs are not for use. The church will be closed after each Mass to facilitate cleaning.
6. We propose to celebrate Masses again at 7.30am and 10.00am each weekday (10.00am only on Saturday morning), and at weekends Saturday 6.00pm, Sunday 9.00am, 10.30am and 12 noon. Appreciate that the church has to be cleaned after each Mass.
7. It goes without saying that should anyone have symptoms of possible COVID-19, (a temperature, a cough) they shouldn't come to church. That includes the possibility that on a given day one of the priests may show such symptoms with the possible consequence that Mass doesn't take place. While those over 70 are still encouraged under HSE guidelines to stay at home, the priests have taken personal decisions to make themselves available in ministry and have done so over the recent months.
8. Collections will take place at the exit doors for both Common Fund and Share fund in two baskets on a table as you exit. To maintain the flow of parishioners at the two metre distance it will help to have donations ready.

9. While the Confessionals are not in use, the room to the right of the main entrance will be available for confession at the required social distance.
10. N.B. We are very grateful to those who have offered their help. We anticipate that these measures will last for quite a while and volunteer help will be much needed and ongoing. If you are willing to help please phone the parish office or Fr. John or Fr. Cormac and let us know ASAP. Our ability to re-open rests very much on the number of volunteers and their training this week.
11. We will let you know next Sunday if our plans to proceed have been approved by the Archbishop.

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**First Penance and First Communion**

We won't be in a position to set dates for First Penance and First Communion celebrations until the schools return in September. With over 100 children involved and a likely ongoing set of restrictions in place we envisage there will be several small group celebrations in place of the 3 day celebrations for both sacraments that were originally intended. We pray for the children and their parents in a special way this weekend. As other parishes face the enormous task of organising small group Confirmation ceremonies in mid July we count our blessings that on the last day before schools closed on March 12<sup>th</sup> our Confirmation ceremony took place. We wish all the boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class in both Scoil Mhuire and Star of the Sea schools all the best as we enter the last week of the school term.

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**On-Line Donations to the Parish**

There are 'donate' buttons on our website facilitating donations to the Parish, to the Common Fund, to Share or to the Easter Dues. We are grateful to those who have already opted to this way of donating. Some have experienced difficulty in the procedure and if this happens to you please contact us at the Parish office.

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**Baptisms**

Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sundays of each month. Currently the maximum number in attendance in the Church under HSE guidelines is a total of 25 persons. In view of this we will only baptise one child at a time to avoid exceeding the number allowed. People who booked for earlier months and who wish to re-book are asked to contact the Parish office to establish a new date.

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**Don't forget how vitally important it is to our hopes of resumption that we find willing volunteers to be ushers, cleaners, stewards and part of the team needed at every Mass as we seek to go forward. Please let us know if you are available as soon as possible.**

