

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday 22nd February 2026

Parish Office 6683894 / 6683316 – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30 – 12.30

Fr. Enda Cunningham PP Tel. 087 138 0695 Fr. John McDonagh

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MASS TIMES: Sunday Mass: Vigil, Sat. 6.p.m.; Sun. 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon. Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7.30 a.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10.00 a.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEKEND

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Denis Cagney, Betty Kiely, and Mary Hevehan, recently deceased, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Madge Loy, Timothy O'Donnell, John Doyle, Brendan Mackey, Liam O'Dwyer, William Stokes, Peter Cunningham, Antoinette Manning, Denis Carville, Martha Harkin, Tony Robinson, Matthew James (MJ) Woods.

**MAY THEIR SOULS , AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD,
REST IN PEACE. AMEN.**

What are you taking up for Lent?

Give something away—every day: It doesn't need to be money or material things—though giving these away can be a powerful experience. Try complimenting a stranger, teaching someone how to do something; spreading a positive message; helping someone who is in a hurry; or simply smiling at someone.

Listening: We could probably all do well to spend more time listening, and less time interjecting

Create a Holy Moment everyday: Send a kind note to a loved one; post something inspiring on social media; volunteer; do a good deed for your neighbour; walk or sit in nature reflecting on God's bounty.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 6th March

For the past couple of years we have joined with the other Christian churches in our Parish to share in World Day of Prayer, this year prepared by the WDP Committee of Nigeria, and we are invited to participate at St. Matthews Church Irishtown Road, with coffee beforehand at 10.30 a.m. and Prayer Service at 11.

Baptised And Sent In Lent

A Lenten course for Faith Sharing Groups is being run in our Parish on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Meeting Room at the rear of the Church, enter from the steps opposite the pre-school building, from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Ceremony of Light Tuesday, 24th February 2026

The Ceremony of Light for our children preparing for their Confirmation will be held on Tuesday, 24th February at 7:00pm in the Church. We ask you to keep them in your prayers for this joyous day.

Trocaire Lenten Campaign

Trocaire Boxes are available in the back of the Church. The work of Trocaire worldwide is one of the really positive features of the Irish Church and a lovely way to be linked as a family with its very significant cause. Please consider entering into the spirit of Lent in support of people in greatest need through this invitation to share in the work of Trocaire with your family.

SAFEGUARDING REMINDER

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.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last week:

15th February, 2026:

1st collection €935 (Common Fund)

2nd collection: €1,385 (Special Collection for Accord Services)

Will You Come As a Pilgrim to The Holy Land?

Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana and Capernaum – all familiar names to us from the Gospel, and today home to Palestinians and Israelis, including a vibrant and faith-filled Christian community. But they need our help and are appealing for us to come to the Holy Land. Bishop William Shomali says simply “do not be afraid”. Many of the Christians of the Holy Land have been without work since the October 7 war, and now with a ceasefire and fresh hope they are appealing for us to come back and share our faith with them, and help them rebuild their lives. Last week the crypt under Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity was eerily quiet as ACN's Michael Kelly visited the birthplace of Jesus, thronged in normal times, but he found himself alone before the holy manger. Bethlehem, just 8 km. from Jerusalem, used to host around 2,000,000 Christian pilgrims every year. It was just getting back to normal after the Covid-19 pandemic when the war triggered by the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel started. Bishop Shomali says

“Christians who come here to the Holy Land grow in faith, but they also strengthen our faith – they assure us that we are not alone and our own faith grows as we share with them the beauty of this land – the Fifth Gospel”. The term is apt, for in walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the Gospel comes alive as never before. Places like Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum and Nazareth become familiar rather than just places we know from the Bible. In response to this appeal, ACN Ireland will lead a pilgrimage of solidarity to be with the Christian people of the Holy Land, as well as visit the sites associated with the earthly life of Christ. The trip will run from October 2 to 10, 2026. Will you come and follow in the footsteps of Jesus?

To find out more, or to book a place, email Michael Kelly at:
michael@acnireland.org <<mailto:michael@acnireland.org>>