



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of

Sister Marguerite Moloney, Patricio Bohol,

who died recently and also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Catherine Barry Walsh, John Larkin, Shirley & Michael Boylan, Denis & Terry Brazil, Raymond Murdoff, Daniel Hickland, Michael Herity, May Nolan, John O'Connell, Frank Smith, Susan Cassidy, Helen & Kitty Cowley, Sr. Noella Cowley, O.P., Michael & Molly Confrey, William & May Murphy, Helen Flynn, Catherine & James Henry,

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
15 th January 2017	€1,555	€1,100

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.

Legion of Mary

The Frank Duff Prayer meeting will take place on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 3pm in the Parish Meeting Room, Star of the Sea Church. All Welcome.

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. Pádraig Coleman, Tel: 6676438*

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 22nd January 2017

Church Unity Octave

Against a background of cold and often painful separation between the churches there has also been a history of prayer for greater unity and mutual understanding. While the Church Unity Week, as we know it today, dates to 1966, the story of ecumenical endeavour goes back further.

Around 1740 a Pentecostal Church in Scotland included prayers for all the churches. In 1810 the Rev. James Haldane Stewart published 'Hints for the General Union of Christians for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.' In 1840, Rev. Ignatius Spence, who was a convert to Catholicism, suggested a 'Union of Prayer for Unity'. In 1867 the first Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops emphasised prayers for unity. In 1894, the influence of Henry Lunn, a Methodist minister, prompted the Archbishop of Canterbury to urge all Christians to pray on Pentecost Sunday for unity. The following year, 1895, Pope Leo X111 urged prayer for unity between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

The first 'Church Unity Octave' was initiated in 1908 by Fr. Paul Wilson in America and Rev. Spencer Jones in England. In 1926, the 'Faith and Order' movement began publishing 'Suggestions for an Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity'. In 1936, as a result of the efforts of Fr. Paul Couturier in France, a 'universal week of prayer for Christian Unity' was held from January 18th to 25th.

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Then in 1958, Unité Chrétienne (Lyons, France), began jointly with the World Council of Churches (WCC) based in Geneva to prepare materials for this Week of Prayer. The Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council, published in 1964, emphasised that prayer is the soul of the Ecumenical Movement and encouraged observance of the Week of Prayer. Then in 1966, the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican's Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, known today as the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, began official joint preparation of the Week of Prayer text.

Each year a group of people drawn from Christian Churches in a particular place are invited to initiate the text and theme for the succeeding octave. This year it was the turn of German Christians to do so as they recalled the 5th century of the Lutheran Reformation. They chose the theme 'Reconciliation: The Love of Christ compels us'. The writing of an original text of the Inter-Church Service and daily reflections was then undertaken by Church leaders in Germany. Their material was then discussed and revised at a meeting of the international preparatory group convened by the WCC and Vatican offices. From there, further work on the evolving text was done at more local level around the world. In this region, a group known as 'Churches together in Britain and Ireland' further refined the text sent out to all parishes and traditions in invitation. So before the text reaches our local parish it has travelled a long way and has enjoyed the creative cooperation of many Christian traditions.

On Wednesday last in Christ Church, Church of Ireland, Taney Road, Dublin Church leaders led these prayers for Unity. We pray this week for all the Christian traditions who gather in the churches of Sandymount and around the world. May we grow in union with Christ our Lord.

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Baptisms in February

Baptisms will be celebrated on February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Baptism Application forms are available in the parish office Monday – Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Applications, giving 1 month's notice, must be made in advance of the preparatory meeting for each month's celebrations. The date for the preparation meeting for February Baptisms is Monday, January 30th at 8.00pm in the Parish Meeting room.

Parents are advised that godparents must be practicing Catholics who are at least 16 years of age and that godparents should be one of each gender, godfather and godmother.

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Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week begins next Sunday, January 29th. It is a week to cherish and appreciate the Catholic Schools in our Parish care.

Do This in Memory

We welcome the children and parents who are preparing for First Communion in May at this Sunday's 10.30am Mass.

Our next Mass will be on February 12th. The Grapevine will be delivered this week with material to work on and we ask parents to also connect with Thumbs pages 18, 19 and 54, 55 before our next Mass.

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society is seeking your help in its Annual Clothing Appeal in this Parish. The Appeal is for clean, good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be available outside the church next weekend 28th / 29th January. The Society will collect the bags outside the church the following weekend, 4th / 5th February at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses only.

The Society is very conscious of the tremendous support given by the parishioners of this Parish for their charitable works over the years. They would like to thank you all most sincerely on behalf of those you have helped.

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Christmas Dues Donations

We wish to thank parishioners who have already sent in Christmas Dues. Donations envelopes may be handed into the Sacristy/Parish office or put in the letter-box in the Parish office door. Christmas and Easter Dues donations go towards the Common Fund that supports the priests of the Diocese.

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A Timely Reminder?

At the beginning of a new Financial Year in the Parish it may be a timely exercise to check if your traceable donations to the Parish exceed €250 a year (it's the equivalent of €21 per month).

It could be composed of the summation of Christmas and Easter Dues along with such monthly / annual donations as would render the cumulative amount to be €250 or greater. The Charities Act meets a €250 donation with a 31% rebate in benefit of the Charity. It means in effect that your €250 increases to a total donation of €362. What a pity if someone donates €247. Worth checking!

Renewed thanks to all who donate generously to the Parish.

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