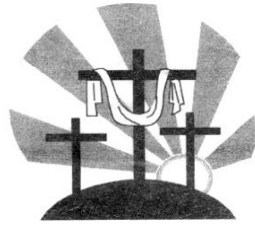


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Alice Rowlands who has died and for the following whose anniversaries occur; Eileen Ging, Joe King, Therese and Denis Brazil, Mary Connolly, Michael Herrity, Peter and Rita Price, Don Curtin, Kathleen McLoughlin.
and for Albert Marshall whose family is marking his month's mind at this time.

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	WHITE BASKET
Jan 15 th	€1,220	€ 860

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.

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your ongoing support and generosity.

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
www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com RCN20016166

January 22nd 2023

What is Love?

Yearning through the ages soughs the cry
'What is Love?' And still we mortals seek
The answer in surrendering our hearts
To magnet-creatures that cannot transcend
Earthly limits. Meanwhile, only saints
Including some who never made the cut
To adorn the Church's qualifying list
Have known the terrible loneliness of loving
Everyone. For is this not part of Love
With a capital Ell and properly defined
That it should scale partitions, leave behind
The comfort of the one-to-one embrace
And like the Chestnut planted years before
Shed fertile conkers to split on neighbouring ground

Fr Brian Power

Parish AGM

The Parish AGM will be held next Wed, January 25th. The AGM will see the Pastoral Council report on its work and the Finance Committee present audited accounts for 2021. Vacancies on the Parish Pastoral Council are to be filled by election that evening and it's a good time now for people to consider nominations.

As of yet we have not received any nominations. We would welcome your support with this.

Meeting once a month, the commitment of the Council members to the Parish community, and the community at large, is inspiring. All parishioners over the age of 18 years are eligible for election. The forms are at the back of the Church and can also be downloaded from our Parish Website.

Do This in memory Mass

Energy costs and Parish Funds

Like all other organisation and household in the country, our recent fuel bills are challenging. The difficulty of heating the church has been brought home to us in a bill for November and December 2022 that amounted to almost €5000 even when we limit its use.

We realise that it's the most demanding time of the year for heating. However it brings home to us how deeply we depend on parishioners donations to keep the home fires burning.

People frequently ask what ways are open to them to support the parish itself in its day to day costs?

The first thing to be said is that people often believe mistakenly that the dues are for parish support. Not so. The dues are a vital part of enabling the diocese to support priests. So how do we help the parish?

Many do so by subscribing through the weekly envelope collection. Others do so by standing order. Others do so by donating online through our website. Others support fundraising activities such as the annual golf outing. And finally, some donate directly to the parish on a once off, yearly or monthly basis. The fact that many support the parish by standing order was a key factor in the covid years to help maintain our parish fund when the Mass collections understandably suffered.

When people donate a minimum of €250 in one calendar year, the parish can claim a rebate from revenue. In that way, a donation of €250 grows to €361.

You will appreciate how significant the tax rebate is to the parish in the rebate amounts we received from revenue: € 25, 010 for 2020 and €28, 256 for 2021. The standing order forms have been left at the back of the church this weekend for anyone who wishes to avail of them .

Many thanks to all our parishioners

Hands of Hope Cards

We have just received a delivery of some of the beautiful handmade 'Hands of Hope' cards from Fr Briain de Burca. All proceeds go directly to the charity which supports villagers living with or affected by HIV/AIDS with creative and dignified employment.

"Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us".- Samuel Smiles

Tax Forms

Thanks to Jimmy McGlynn for organising the delivery of the CHY3 tax rebate forms.

Letters to acknowledge parishioner donations for the years 2020 and 2021 should all be delivered by the end of this week. We have enclosed CHY3 tax cert forms with the letters. We would like to thank you if you signed and returned the CHY3 Cert last year.

However if for some reason you did not get a chance to sign it, perhaps you could sign, fill in your PPS and return to the parish office. If for some reason you have made a donation and have not received a letter or form please let us know and we can check the Pastoral Management System and make sure that your details are fully in order.

BLESSING OF THROATS

The blessing of throats for the feast of St Blaise will take place from 8am to 5pm in Whitefriar Street Church on **Friday, February 3**. Masses will be celebrated at 8am, 10am, 11.30am, 1.10pm and 3pm.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week 2023, themed 'Walking Together in Faith & Love', will take place from **Sunday, January 22, to Sunday, January 29**. For this year's annual celebration of Catholic education, CSW will draw on three features of the Synodal Pathway: 'Communion, Participation and Mission'. The theme for CSW 2023 is dedicated to celebrating the gift of Catholic education and recognising the love and generosity of the entire school community: student, staff and home. [Click here for resources and more information.](#)

Defibrillator Key

Please be aware that in case of emergency the key to the defibrillator is located in the Confession box on the right hand side at the back of the church.