



## ***REST IN PEACE***

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

Dan, Eileen & Delia Ahern; Nancy & Harry Manley; Angela McGlynn; James & Jane Rigley; Paddy Browne; Teresa Sands; Larry Norton; Patricia & Tommy Forry;

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:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GREEN BASKET</b>	<b>Share</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	€665	€415

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.

**November Lists of the Dead are available at the back of the church**

**Our recent Crosscare collection amounted to €2,855.00, a wonderful reflection of parishioners generosity in a time of pandemic.**

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

***Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021***

#### ***Mission Sunday***

It is Mission Sunday weekend in a time of pandemic and overseas missionaries in poorer parishes of Africa, Asia and Latin America are on the front line. You might recall a note from last week's bulletin that Trocaire has great concern presently for 30 million people in East Africa who are facing life threatening food shortages while the Irish Bishops report that 200 million have fallen into poverty because of the joint effects of the pandemic, conflict and climate change. In the heart of struggling communities around the world you'll find missionaries engaged with their people in truly good work. They have been doing so long before, during and after emergencies. It is one of the great chapters of Irish history that for what surely spans more than a hundred years, thousands of Irishmen and Irishwomen have given their lives generously to missionary work. That tide of generous service has slowed down greatly but we now see the generosity of missionaries coming to us in Ireland to serve the church here just as our carriers of the Gospel's joy have served people on all the continents in the past. In the words of the Nigerian sister featured in this year's Missio Ireland message: 'it is time to count on what unites us, rather than what divides us.' The witness of those who leave home to serve others far away is surely one of the truly lovely features of the Church in any age.

You may remember the parish exercise we engaged in a few years ago when we asked parishioners to identify on a world map the places in our world to which members of their families or close friends had served as missionaries. The pins used to indicate their missionary endeavours were world-wide from Asia to South America, across Africa, Oceania and into North America and

surprisingly numerous. Young people today may never have known the experience but how enriching it was for those of us who did- the awareness of so much missionary endeavour down to one's classmates from school becoming missionaries. In my own case I recall three from a class of thirty whose missionary lives brought them to Indonesia, Brazil and Nigeria, all now with the Lord. Or there was that experience in 1962 when six Oblates, five still in their twenties, headed off to open a new mission in Brazil. It was all the more significant that two were from the street I grew up in and a third had played midfield for the local football team. Among the personal stories of our Sandymount parishioners was one which stands out, that of a dear woman, now deceased, whose mother on becoming a widow joined the Medical Missionaries of Mary and spent twenty years as a missionary doctor and religious sister serving communities in Tanzania. We are aware too of parishioners who served a time in missionary work as doctors, nurses, teachers or engineers before settling down at home in family life. One thinks too of the many martyrs among the Irish missionaries over the past century whose names should be better known and whose witness not forgotten. The level of attachment to the people they cared for in a new home was a hallmark of missionaries. How often their retirement back to Ireland was for them a point of sadness and regret, that spoke deeply of their generous enculturation. I'm reminded of Fr Murnaghan whose anniversary approaches who couldn't wait to get back to Africa.

We are blessed in our Sandymount parish with the presence of Missionary Congregations like the Franciscan Missionaries of Africa, the Irish Sisters of Charity, the Marist Brothers, Mercy Sisters and nearby on Shelbourne Rd, the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles. This is a good time to hold all their missionary work in our prayers. We remember in particular Sr Felicia Matola who served us so well on the Parish Pastoral Council and is now working with her Franciscan Community in South Sudan.

It is significant that every parish in the world, including the poorest one -wherever that may be, prays today for missionary work and contributes to the worldwide church collection for their support. It is so because every Christian is called to be a missionary, not necessarily travelling far but most definitely sharing in what the traveller missionary does and is well summarised in the theme of this year's Mission Sunday: 'We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard' (Acts of the Apostles: 4:20). Parents can be missionaries in that sense to their children. Friends can be so for one another whenever we call on the hope of the Gospel for one another. In every conversation there is room to spread the seed of the Gospel message.

One of the great missionary figures of our time was Frank Duff who founded the Legion of Mary a hundred years ago and in doing so brought that missionary responsibility home to lay people around the world. Frank was invited as a witness to the Second Vatican Council and such was the regard for his life's work in

establishing the Legion of Mary internationally that on a day when lay participants were introduced to the Vatican assembly of worldwide bishops, others were named but at the mention of Frank's name the whole assembly stood up to acclaim him. At a time when the Pope invites all to participate in a Synodal Pathway, one cannot overestimate the place that Frank Duff holds in the opening up of the Church to all its members and in encouragement of our own participation today.

Today too offers memory of how a 21 year old French woman named Pauline Jaricot succeeded in her day in moving the Church from a somewhat haphazard support of individual missionaries to the organised work of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which oversees the disbursement of the worldwide collection made today. Missio Ireland is part of that endeavour in inviting our support in this important annual collection for the missions.

### **Mission Sunday Collection**

As we mark this particular Mission Sunday, amid great global concerns of our time, missionaries and their work have been placed in urgent crisis. Please be as generous as you can. Star of the Sea is noted for its support of missionaries undertaking great work in often trying circumstances.

### **Legion of Mary appeal**

The Legion of Mary celebrated its centenary on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2021. This weekend they are making an appeal for volunteers.

The most important aspect of our lives is to take time to share our faith with others and take time to listen to them.

If you can generally spare the time for a weekly meeting and give 2 hours to do some pastoral work or if you would like to become an associate member who prays for the work of the Legion of Mary, please contact one of their members outside the church after Mass and they will be delighted to give you further information.

### **Sanitising the church**

As you are aware, since March 2019, the church has been sanitised after each Mass by a team of dedicated volunteers. We are all most grateful to them for their unflinching service – to keep us all safe. As times change, the practices in the parish will reflect that. We will continue sanitising the church after each Mass until 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and would ask for your continued support in this activity. After that date, other arrangements will be put in place. At Masses attended by small numbers, it will help if people sit close to the end of a seat and place a piece of coloured paper from the basket left at the entrance area to indicate to those sanitising where their cleaning action is required, rather than cleaning all the seats.

### **Explorers**

The Explorers are an informal ecumenical group with the aim of reading scriptures together. All are welcome. This year all presentations will again take place on Zoom. Rev. Dr Katie Heffelfinger, a bible scholar, will lead their four autumn sessions on 'Poetry and imagination in the Hebrew Bible'. The next monthly meetings are set for 15<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2021.

Those who are interested to participate and are not yet on the Explorers address list, please, send your e-mail address or postal address and telephone number to Anngret Simms at her e-mail address: [Anngret.Simms@ucd.ie](mailto:Anngret.Simms@ucd.ie).