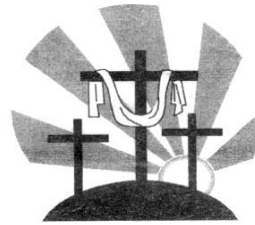


**REST IN PEACE**



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Imelda Harding, Mathew Talbot, and Mary Byrne who died in recent days and for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur:

Thomas Allen, James Finnegan, Tash Mulligan, Phil Dunn and Eugene Davey

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 |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Fab 20 <sup>th</sup> '22 | € 695        | €445  |

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

We thank you for your contributions to these and to all collections in the parish and through the various avenues of donation.

**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 Feb 27<sup>th</sup> : The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year

**Lent Approaches**

On Wednesday next we celebrate Ash Wednesday and the great season of Lent begins, forty days not counting Sundays that lead to Easter. It is a season of preparation for Easter, a time of growth in faith and good works, seeking to know, love and serve God better.

The three traditional avenues of spiritual growth in Lent are **prayer, fasting** and **almsgiving**. Instead of thinking of what we're giving up for Lent, the better question to ask ourselves is what are we taking up to insure our better attention to what God wants. Give thought to what that might be for you in these days before Lent. At the heart of prayer is listening to God in the circumstance of our lives. What is God saying to me? Fasting is a curbing of what *we want* so as to dwell more openly with *what God wants*, while works of charity put God's will of love into action directly.

You might think of Lent as a time to renew your Baptism. Babies, when most of us were baptised, it is good for us to be refreshed on the significance of Baptism. It was once the practice that all Baptisms took place at the Easter Vigil and the 40 days of Lent represented the daily instruction in faith of those preparing for Baptism, while the forty days of Easter represented a time of instruction in the sacraments.

### **Celebration of Sacraments in March**

Beginning this week a series of important celebrations will take place with the boys and girls of the parish who have been preparing for Confirmation and First Reconciliation.

Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm: Ceremony of Light with Star of the Sea boys

Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm: First Reconciliation with 2<sup>nd</sup> class, Star of the Sea

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: Ceremony of Light with Scoil Mhuire girls.

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am: Confirmation with Star of the Sea boys.

Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am: Confirmation with Scoil Mhuire girls

Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm: First Reconciliation with 2<sup>nd</sup> class Scoil Mhuire

Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon: Confirmation with any boys or girls who, because of Covid or otherwise, missed out on the earlier celebrations this month.

*Note that on the two Confirmation Days of March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>, the earlier Mass will be at 9.30 am rather than 10 am each day.*

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ashes will be blessed and distributed at both morning Masses, 7.30 and 10am this Wednesday, to mark the beginning of Lent.

As you know, Ash Wednesday is one of two days in the year, the other being Good Friday, when Catholics are asked to observe both fast and abstinence. This year the Pope asks us to devote Ash Wednesday to fasting and prayer for peace in the Ukraine.

### **The Pope's Appeal**

My heart aches greatly at the worsening situation in Ukraine. Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Like me, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests. I would like to appeal to those with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war; who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies. I pray that all the parties involved refrain

from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilising coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.

And now I would like to appeal to everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Jesus taught us that the diabolical senselessness of violence is answered with God's weapons, with prayer and fasting. I invite everyone to make **the 2<sup>nd</sup> March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace**. I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensively to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.

### **First Friday**

Friday next is the First Friday when Mass will be offered for our Faithful Departed in the November Dead list and for those who died in recent months. During the past two years, some vulnerable parishioners understandably opted not to have a first Friday visit with Holy Communion. Should anyone wish to resume again, just let us know. Other housebound parishioners, not on our list, may wish to avail of the monthly visit. If so please let us know, ph 6683316. Unless there is a funeral that day, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 10 o'clock Mass for an hour.

### **Legion of Mary:**

The Legion of Mary will resume its meeting in the Parish Meeting Room this Ash Wednesday at 3pm and they are very happy to welcome new members who may come along

### **Trócaire Lenten Boxes**

Trócaire Boxes are available this weekend. The work of Trócaire 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 work. Please consider entering into the spirit of Lent in support of people in greatest need through this invitation to share in the work of Trócaire with your family.

### **The Pathway to the Synod**

Last week, you will recall, we identified two dates on which we propose to gather to engage as a parish in the listening exercise encouraged by Pope Francis. They were Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm and the following Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 4pm, both meetings to take place in the hall of Scoil Mhuire. Those who wish to come choose either of those dates and we propose to complete the exercise in that one meeting attended. Work is ongoing in our preparation for these meetings.