

# WEEKLY BULLETIN 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

*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)

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEKEND

Your prayers are requested this weekend

For the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time.

John Herbert; Kitty O'Leary; Christopher & Rose Gaffney; Olive Corcoran; Eric Memery; Tom Cushion;  
Anne Healy; Michael & Annie Stephens; Lorreta Cummiskey;

May they share in the joy of heaven.

### Church collections last week 23<sup>rd</sup> August

1<sup>st</sup> Collection €895 and Share €510

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

### First Communion celebrations

When schools re-open it will be a priority to identify possible dates for First Communion celebrations postponed since May. It will obviously be with restricted numbers within the guidelines for church celebrations.

### Celebration of Baptism

For the present our policy is to celebrate Baptism with individual families, one at a time. While our officially scheduled dates are the first and third Sunday of each month we are happy to celebrate Baptism on other days in particular Saturdays and if necessary on the other Sundays in the month. Preparation will be on an individual basis for each family in place of the monthly meeting.

### Schools Reopen

We very much welcome the boys and girls back to our parish schools this week. It has been a long time since March 12<sup>th</sup>. Teachers worked earnestly to teach online and we're very grateful for their doing so. But it's difficult to satisfactorily replace the educationally effective classroom of children with their teacher, no matter how adept we become with our computer. Children's education has suffered through lockdown to the point where the conviction now in our society is that it is more dangerous for boys and girls not to have schools open than to open them, even in this time of a pandemic.

We very much appreciate and thank the school principals, members of staff and Boards of Management who have worked hard to prepare the schools in compliance with the received guidance of the public health doctors and the Department of Education and Science. The re-opening of schools safely has rightly become a priority for our society even as the threat of the Covid-19 is a pressing reality for us all.

International research is reassuring us that within-school transmission is much less a concern than that for community transmission, as we re-open schools. Preventing community transmission by carefully following everything asked of us by the public health doctors and the HSE is paramount for all of us. Washing hands, maintaining social distance, wearing masks where asked to, avoiding excess numbers in gatherings and so on – are challenges we're all asked to uphold, to make schools safe for our children and protect the aged and the vulnerable.

We cherish our young people, their teachers and parents. May the months ahead bring joy in learning and safety for all as we strive to turn back the level of community transmission of this dangerous virus.

Confessions continue on Saturdays at 11.00am using the room to the right of entry to the church.

Thank you for your compliance with all of the guidelines in place for entry and exit, for seating and for movement particularly at Communion time.