

## ***REST IN PEACE***



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of Celine Hogan, Richard Reid, John, Kathleen, Olive Gleeson, baby Katie Mc Dermott, Joe Sadlier, Sadie Corcoran, Eileen Ging, Deirdre Spillane, Andy Hackett, and Francie, Ivor, John and Frank Smith, whose anniversaries occur and for Richard Sinnott at time of month's mind.

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>
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	€740	€545

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.

#### Parish Office Hours

For the time being Office Hours are restricted to 10.30 to 11.30 Mon to Fri. You may leave a request for a particular service on the phone at 6683316

Next week we hope to have established the dates for the Synod meetings.

Friday next is the First Friday. Unless there is a funeral, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30.

## **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 January 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

The New Parish Pastoral Council

On Wednesday last we saw the election of eight new members to the Parish Pastoral Council. We thank them for their willingness to serve the parish as Pastoral Council members. The new members are Jim Lucey, Dan Manahan, Ruth D'Alton, Peter Carvill, Catherine O'Reilly, Freddie Maguire, Anne Keogh and Michael John Flynn. Happily also two members of the Council, Anne Bacon and Mary Murphy have another year to serve in their term and will constitute with the new members the Parish Pastoral Council as we go forward. Officers will be elected at our next meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

In welcoming our new Council members we thank those who have served their term and are now standing down. When they came on board they could not have envisaged the challenge of the last two years of pandemic. They have done very well to guide us all through a difficult time and we thank them sincerely, Joe McNamara who was chairperson since late in 2018, Fiona O'Brien who was our secretary and Valerie Sweeney and Veronica Lyons. We were unable to hold an AGM in 2020 or 2021 and had we done so would have recorded also the service given to the Council by Gerard Lincoln, Joe McElvaddy and Karen Hickey, whose term of service ended in these previous two years. We hold cherished memory also of Ali Pigot who died during her term of office and was always a great servant of our parish community.

Our thanks also to the Parish Finance Committee for their participation and sharing of the Financial Reports for 2019 and 2020.

## St Brigid's Day on Tuesday

We sing a hymn to Brigid	All were welcome at her door.
Brigid brings the Spring,	No one was turned away.
Awakens all the flowers	She loved the poor, the sick, and the sore
and calls the birds to sing	She helped them on their way.

The children in 2<sup>nd</sup> class will have learned this song to Brigid in their school programme. Maybe they'll sing it for their parents this Tuesday when we celebrate St Brigid's Day, Lá Féile Bríde. This is a modern song to St Brigid but as far back as the poet St Ultan of Ardbraccan, who died in 646/47 we can find hymns and poetry in praise of St Brigid, who died in 525. Ultan's Latin hymn 'Christus in nostra insula' sings the praises of St Brigid.

In a year's time we will have a Bank Holiday in Ireland to the memory of Brigid. It will be interesting to see if the primary memory will be of our St Brigid or of the pagan Goddess Brigit who was celebrated in pre-Christian Ireland in the Festival of Imbolc on February 1<sup>st</sup> (old calendar). With the coming of Christianity it became the practice to replace the old Celtic festivals with festivals of Christian saints. And so it was that a festival to St Brigid replaced the festival to the Goddess Brigit. Some today go so far as to claim that Brigid, the saint, never existed while folklore no doubt carries at least a suggestion of a transfer of some of the old festival customs into the new festival of the saint. In an increasingly secular age it has become fashionable now to secularise the great Christian festivals in the way that pagan festivals were once Christianised. We've seen it in St Patrick's Day as a celebration of Irishness rather than of Patrick's sainthood, for example. So, what will the new Holiday of Brigid bring.? It remains to be seen.

We remember the second Patron Saint of Ireland this Tuesday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, and the generations of those who cherished her as a very real woman of faith, of courage and of charity.

## St. Blaise on Thursday

On Thursday the traditional blessing of throats will be after the Masses at 7.30 am and 10 am.

## Candlemas Mass-Feast of the Presentation-on Wednesday

On Wednesday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation or Candlemas Day. At Mass that day we may begin by blessing candles at the back of the Church and we welcome those in attendance to carry a candle which will be lit during the short blessing. We then walk down the aisle with the priest, recalling how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, where Simeon proclaimed him as 'a light to enlighten the pagans'. After the Gloria and Opening Prayer we return to our seats to listen to the readings. If people wish to have candles blessed for home use, we invite to bring them along.

The Feast of the Presentation is also the Day of Consecrated Life. Our parish is blessed in the presence of men and women among us who have devoted their lives as religious and we remember all of them on this day.

Sisters of Charity, Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, Marist Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and other Congregational members who come to the Eucharist in Star of the Sea, we thank you for your dedication and your witness and ask God's blessing on you all.

## Continued Vigilance in face of Covid

While there is optimism in the air with the opening up of society we were reminded this week in a message from the diocese to all our parishes that we should maintain vigilance when the virus remains a threat to our health. We are asked to continue wearing masks in the Church, to avail always of the sanitizer as we enter and to maintain social distancing when we gather in Church. It is anticipated that updated national guidelines for people gathering in churches will be given soon. We hope also for a return to distribution of baskets at Offertory time rather than the exit baskets we've used since March '20 as soon as it is advised to do so.

Financial Statements: Copies of Summary Financial Statements for 2019 and 2020 were presented at the AGM last Wednesday and are available at the back of the Church. We thank all who attended either in the church or on webcam and thanks again to the members of the Pastoral Council who have completed their term of service.