

REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend

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

Sarah & Joseph Kane, Deirdre Spillane, David Howell, David McCurtain, Liam, Eileen & Miriam Lynch, Anne Cantillon, Bee-Bee Whearity, Pdraig Corcoran, Don Sheridan, David, George & Imelda Reade, Trevor Murphy

And for Eileen O'Brien, Kathleen Delaney, Jean (Bunnie) O'Connell, David Reade and Aideen Byrne whose Month's Minds occur.

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

DATE	GREEN BASKET	SHARE
21 st January 2018	€1,610	€1,100

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.

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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

Sunday 4th February 2018

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In the Light of the Word **Chapter One of Amoris Laetitia**

The first sentence is a helpful summary of the opening chapter of Pope Francis' exhortation.

“The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises.”

Reflecting on the lovely Psalm 128, 1-6, Francis invites our appreciation of the love between a father and mother, a personal story of love, in the heart of the family. He highlights the insights of the early chapters of the Book of Genesis: ‘male and female he created them in the image of God’. In this Francis observes that the fruitfulness of the human couple is a living and effective ‘image’, a visible sign of God as Creator. In our vision of the Trinity, we contemplate God as Father, Son and Spirit, a communion of love. The family is its living reflection. Francis then turns to another ‘splendid and detailed portrait of the couple’ in the Book of Genesis when he highlights its partnership, the partnership of a helpmate to alleviate anxious solitude. He writes of it as an encounter with a face, a ‘thou’. Who reflects God's own love. This encounter gives rise to new birth and the family. In their voluntary self-giving in love, their child “will share not only genetically but also spiritually in the flesh of both parents.

Pope Francis goes on to speak of children ‘like shoots of the Olive Tree’, in the imagery of Psalm 128. If parents are in some sense the foundations of the home, the children are like the ‘living stones’ of the family (1 Peter 2:5). The presence of children is a sign of continuity of the family from generation to generation.

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From this perspective the Pope highlights three further aspects of family life:

- (1) A family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table. (Rev 3:20; 1 Cor 16:19; Rm 16:5, Col 4:15; Phil :2).
- (2) The Bible presents the family as the place where children are brought up in the faith. (Ex 12: 26-27; Deut 6: 20-25; Psalm 76: 3-6). It is where parents become their first teachers in the faith. It’s a serious responsibility for parents while children, for their part, are called to honour their father and mother in fulfilment of family and social commitments.
- (3) Children are not the property of a family but have their own lives to lead. Jesus goes so far as to present children as teachers, on account of their simple trust and their spontaneity.

Next week we’ll touch the rest of this chapter, which includes the thread of suffering and bloodshed that runs through many pages of the Bible.

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Celebrating Baptism

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in March will be held on Monday, 26th February, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in March will be on Sundays March 4th and 18th , after the 12 noon Mass. Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 26th February and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Because it occasionally arises as a question, we confirm that godmother and godfather should be of each gender and that godparents must be over 16 and practising Catholics, at home in their faith. While normally we have two godparents, it is sufficient to have just one. Another may act as a witness rather than a godparent in that situation.

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A Timely Reminder?

At the beginning of a new Financial Year in the Parish it may be a timely exercise to check if your traceable donations to the Parish exceed €250 a year (it’s the equivalent of €21 per month).

It could be composed of the summation of Christmas and Easter Dues along with such monthly / annual donations as would render the cumulative amount to be €250 or greater. The Charities Act meets a €250 donation with a 31% rebate in benefit of the Charity. It means in effect that your €250 increases to a total donation of €362. What a pity if someone donates €247. Worth checking!

Renewed thanks to all who donate generously to the Parish in a weekly envelope or in standing orders or direct donations to the Parish.

Do this in Memory

Our next special Mass with the children and parents preparing for First Communion will be on Sunday next at 10.30am.

Parents are asked to share the details of Grapevine 5, the newsletter sent home after our Mass on January 14th. Each Grapevine assists parents to teach the children about different parts of the Mass and to ensure their ability to join in the responses. In addition to Grapevine 5, parents might share pages 18 and 19 of Thumbs and assist them to complete pages 34 and 35 in the Kidstuff section of Thumbs, relating to the Mass on January 14th, if they haven’t already done so.

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Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

The Society is seeking your help in its Annual Clothing Appeal in this Parish. The Appeal is for clean, good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be available outside the church next weekend, 11th and 12th February and the Society will collect the bags outside the church on the following weekend, 17th / 18th February at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses only.

The Society is very conscious of the tremendous support given by the parishioners of this Parish for their charitable works over the years. They would like to thank you all most sincerely on behalf of those you have helped.

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World Day of the Sick 2018

Mass of Healing and Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin in St. Agnes’s Church, Crumlin at 3.00pm next Sunday, 11th February. All are welcome.

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St. Valentine’s Day Gift Tokens

This month’s initiative in preparation towards the World Meeting of Families is a non-commercial gift token given to a loved one that focuses on quality time together. The person receiving the gift can redeem it at the time of their choice. Each token entitles the recipient to one of a number of gifts including:

- A hand-in-hand walk together
- A special meal cooked for them
- A journey down memory lane where time is set to remember the couple’s journey together
- A technology free evening together
- Prayer time together.

This year Valentine’s Day falls on Ash Wednesday. It’s a good year to think outside the chocolate box. The initiative is inspired by Pope Francis in his comment on St. Valentine’s Day in ‘The Joy of Love’.

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‘Walk With Me’

A Lenten Journey of Prayer for 2018’.

Booklets are available in the Church Bookshop at €1 each.