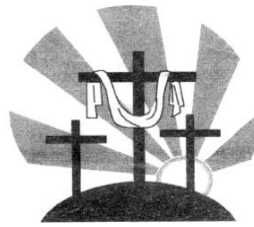


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested for Liam Smyth who died recently and for Beebee Whearity, Daniel Hickland, Padraig Corcoran, Don Sheridan, Jeremiah Lincoln, James Goulding, Mollie and Dinny Foley, Deirdre Spillane, Emelia Brazil, Josephine Butler and Declan O’Loughlin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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	WHITE BASKET
28 th Jan 2024	€1,150	€645

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese, known as the Common Fund. The white basket is normally 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.

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
RCN2001616

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 4th, February 2024

‘Called to meet our Fear!’

In a recent homily ‘Called to meet our Fear’ Archbishop Dermot Farrell presented a scene from the book of Jonah and in the Gospel spoke about the enthusiasm of Jesus first disciples; ‘They follow Jesus ‘‘At once’’. In their enthusiasm, they go after Christ, but follow their own agenda. They are on the same road but not on the same journey! They’re about themselves. Just like Jonah with God, the disciples are also overwhelmed by the reality that Jesus puts before them, and with the way he asks them to engage.

Something similar is happening for us in the present time. In the last two years, this country and others have welcomed, vast numbers of people fleeing the cynical war in Ukraine, and other conflicts in so many troubled regions of the world. We are faced with responding to those who have come to seek sanctuary or build a new life among us. This is a challenge. It is a challenge which arises in the context of long-standing shortcomings in the provision of housing and other services for a growing population. It is precisely in this context, in this concrete situation that God addresses his word to us. We are called today no less than Jonah, or the first disciples—to embrace the way of God. These are inspiring words, but what do they mean? To what are we called? In the first instance, it is to recognise our common humanity with the refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in our midst. They are entitled to make their case within the framework that society has created to regulate admission to the country.

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While doing so, they are not to be targeted or penalised, abused or frightened. As followers of Christ, we are called to speak up for their rights and dignity. We are called to speak up when individuals are targeted, victimised or stigmatised, or used as pawns in disputes which are really about politics and resources. We are called to speak up for the truth about migration and population change, not to deny that it is a serious challenge, but to rebut the misinformation that is spread to stir up suspicion and hatred. The heart of our faith is compassion. Remember the Samaritan! (Luke 10:25–37) We are called to solidarity with our least fortunate brothers and sisters, to use our creativity, energy and resources to make life better. But we are also called to solidarity with those who are asked to accept into their community those who need shelter. It is right that the practical consequences for communities be recognised and addressed.

“Whoever *welcomes* one such child in my name *welcomes* me, and whoever *welcomes* me *welcomes*, not me, but the one who sent me.” (Mark 9:37). That child is at our door—the stranger in our communities. Can we take Christ at his word? Can we welcome him? Or, will we be like Jonah, led by fear, and turn away?’ The full homily can be read at www.dublindioocese.ie/called-to-meet-our-fear/

Do this in Memory

Next Sunday at 10.30am the children and parents who are preparing for First Communion will gather for our ‘Do this in Memory’ Mass. it will be our 6th gathering on our road of preparation. Following our last special Mass, the children were asked to complete pages 54 and 55 of their Thumb book at home. By now all of the exercises between page 40 and page 55 should be completed and parents should have shared the material on pages 10 to 19, as well as on Grapevines 1 to 5, with their children. In preparation for next week, we ask that you share pages 20 and 21 of Thumb with them as well as the material on Grapevine 5, the newsletter that followed our Mass on January 14th.

Celebrations of First Reconciliation will take place at the beginning of March; with boys from Star of the Sea on Tuesday, March 5th, and with girls from Scoil Mhuire and children attending non-Catholic schools on Thursday, March 7th, both evenings at 7pm.

Bank Holiday arrangements

Please note that we will have no 7.30am Mass this Monday. The parish office will be closed, reopening on Tuesday.

Day of Retreat in Personal Prayer

The Council of the Partnership Parishes of Ringsend, Haddington Road and Sandymount invite you, our Parishioners, to join together for a day of retreat during Lent, on Sat, 9th March 2024, at Avila Carmelite Centre, Donnybrook, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., which will be led by Fr. Donal Neary, S.J.

Numbers are limited to 80 in total so please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in attending...

More details will follow closer to the date.

Day of Prayer

Pope Francis has designated the 1st Friday in Lent as a day of prayer for the victims of abuse in the church. For us in the Archdiocese of Dublin this is a poignant day, given our history of abuse as set out in the Murphy Report in 2009. This day affords us the opportunity to reach out in prayer and to show our solidarity with all survivors and victims of abuse.

World Day of the Sick 11th Feb

Mass for the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday 11th Feb at 4pm in the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar St. Please note that there is a car park at the rear of the Church.

Journeying through Lent

Join Fr Vivian Boland OP on Ash Wednesday, 14th Feb, at 7pm in St. Andrew’s Church, Westland Row, as he leads a talk on the theme of ‘Journeying through Lent with the vision of Pope Francis’. More info on www.dublindioocese.ie

Lectio Divina.

Pat Talbot has kindly offered to continue the Lectio Divina opportunity each Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in the parish meeting room (entrance through the door at the back of the Church, up the steps). All are welcome.

Home from Home, Sandymount

Everyone is most welcome to the drop in morning hosted by the Community Centre for anyone in the area who wants to meet some new people, read the papers, have a cuppa and learn more about what's going on in the community. Pop in on Thursday morning between 10am and noon or email info@sandymountcommunitycentre.ie

The centre also runs a fortnightly parent/baby meet up, on the 2nd and 4th weekend of the month. The group is ideal for parents of non-walking babies in buggies or carriers.

Date for your diary - Divine Mercy Conference

The Annual Divine Mercy Conference will take place in the RDS Donnybrook over three days in February. It runs Feb 23-25 incl. Inspiring talks, wonderful music, opportunities for confession, Mass, and prayer. Lots more information via www.divinemercuryconference.com