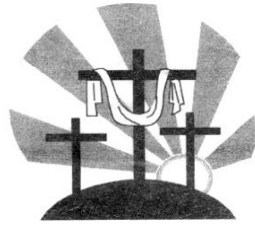


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Charlie Bowens who has died and for the following whose anniversaries occur; Declan O’Loughlin, Bee Bee Whearity, Joe King, Mollie and Dinny Foley, Daniel Hickland, Don Sheridan, Pdraig Corcoran and Jeremiah Lincoln.

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
Jan 29 th 2023	€1,140	€ 830

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.

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your ongoing support and generosity.

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 RCN20016166

February 5th 2023

Matthew – Gospel of the Church

When we have a complicated diagram to reproduce, as in the human body for example, we might start with a series of sheets of tracing paper. The first might be a drawing of the human skeleton and then on top of that, using the same scale, we might impose other drawings on tracing paper representing the muscles, the various organs and so on. In this way we can look at each drawing separately, or if we wish, see them superimposed on each other. Our modern computers can achieve such individual and also combined revelations in a fascinating way.

We can do something similar with the Gospels.

The portrait of Jesus of Nazareth that the disciples held in their memories might be a first layer. But then on top of this the disciples superimposed features of the Risen Jesus that they began to experience after Easter, the amazing presence of the Risen Lord that was in their communities.

In St Matthews Gospel, we are never quite sure whether we are beside Lake Tiberias in the year 30 or at a celebration of the Eucharist in a Christian Church on the 80s. Matthew puts us in two places at the same time. He deliberately places upon the Jesus of history the tracing paper of the Lord living in the church. So the Jesus it portrays is seen through the glorious features of the Risen Lord as celebrated by the church and its liturgy.

cont’d overleaf

St Matthew's Gospel is the Church's Gospel. It is the only one of the four Gospels that specifically uses the word 'church'. It is concerned with the church's organisation, with its community life and with its teaching, outlined in five great speeches.

It introduces us to the heart of a church which celebrates its Lord in liturgy, cries 'Lord save us' in life's storms but also runs the risk of stifling itself and having only 'little faith'.

In reading St Matthew's Gospel three features of the Church communities it addressed might be noticed. Firstly, it is composed mainly of Christians who had come from Judaism. Secondly, they are in conflict with official Judaism. And thirdly, these communities are open to receiving Gentiles, witnessing Jesus' call to send his disciples to the whole world.

Do This in Memory

On Sunday next at 10.30am we celebrate our next 'Do This in Memory Mass' with parents and children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion. We invite parents to prepare for this Mass by sharing pages 18 and 19 of Thumb with their child as well as the four pages of Grapevine 5. The children are asked to complete pages 54 and 55 of Thumb if they haven't already done so. In case you need a clue to answer the question on page 54, you'll find help in page 2 of Grapevine 4. I hope you're managing to save all these copies of Grapevine. There will be nine in all with lots of information to help our preparation in this important year. You'll find the Gospel for next Sunday's Mass in Grapevine 5 just as the Gospel for our last Mass was in Grapevine 4.

Bank Holiday Monday: Mass at 10am

Please note that there will be no Mass at 7.30am this Bank Holiday Monday. It is great to see St Brigid's Day honoured in our country.

'A Song to Brigid'

We sing a song to Brigid,
Brigid brings the spring
Awakens all the fields and the flowers
And calls the birds to sing.

All were welcome at her door,
no one was turned away.

She loved the poor, the sick and the sore,
She helped them on their way.

She laid her cloak out on the ground
And watched it grow and grow,
In wells and streams and fields of green
St. Brigid's blessings flow.

Thank You

Mission Ireland would like to thank parishioners for kindly donating 2,278.13 towards the Mission Sunday collection. This generous gift will go directly towards supporting missionary work and struggling mission dioceses in the developing world. www.missio.ie

Parish Statistics

We recently completed a statistical report on behalf of the Archdiocese of Dublin. The following was recorded. In 2022, we celebrated 71 Baptisms, 72 children received First Communion and 68 children were Confirmed. We had 5 weddings and helped 28 couples prepare for marriage and there were 65 Funerals in our parish last year. .
Many thanks to all who help in these celebrations.

World Day of Sick

Anointing of the Sick within the celebration of the Mass will be held on Saturday 11th February (memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) at 11.30am and 3pm at the Carmelite Church in Whitefriar St. Preacher is Joe Mothersill O Carm. Please note that Anointing of the Sick is reserved for those who are ill.
Car parking is available at the rear of the Church.

Towards Peace

Towards Peace is a service offering spiritual support for anybody who has been abused, physically emotionally, sexually, spiritually, in a religious/church environment. Towards Peace was established in October 2014 by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference and the Association of Leaders of Missionary & Religious Leaders of Ireland. (AMRI) It is a pathway, a safe space where people who have been hurt can connect with their own spirituality, their sense of God and their own journey Towards Peace. The service is free and is also available to the families of those who have been affected. Towards Peace understands spirituality as a way of being in, and relating to the world, connected to God and to ones deepest self. Through one to one meetings with a trained and qualified spiritual companion – an anam cara or soul friend – Towards Peace offers safe spaces for people to attend to their own spiritual life. The Towards Peace office hours are Monday and Tuesday 9am - 4pm and Wednesday 9am - 12noon. For further information phone 01 5053028 or 086 7710533 or visit www.towardspeace.ie or <https://www.facebook.com/TowardsPeaceSpiritualSupportService/>.

Accord Collection

The annual collection for Accord Dublin, the Diocesan Agency for Marriage and the Family, will be made at all Masses on the weekend of **February 11 and 12**. Accord Dublin throughout the diocese offers Marriage Preparation courses – online, small groups; Counselling for couples and individuals experiencing difficulties in their relationships, currently online or by phone; A Relationship and Sexuality Programme for schools. Accord Dublin needs your support this year more than ever. Please give generously on February 11 and 12.

World Day for Consecrated Life

World Day for Consecrated Life took place on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, **February 2**. It will be marked in the Archdiocese with a celebration on **March 25**. More details closer to the date.