



# REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

*Christine Cooney; Sammy, Jane & James Rigley; Desmond O'Leary; Maura Farragher Collins; Fr. Tim Hurley; Annie & Christopher Stanley; Lorcan Hogan; Deirdre McNamara; Marie & Sean Banks; Nell Ryan; Peter & Samuel Clarke;*

And for Alexandra (Allie) Pigot, Ita Durnin and Con O'Rourke, 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
1 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	€1,475	€905

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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### Thank You

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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#### Second Sunday of Advent

This Sunday we welcome our local conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society on the weekend of their annual appeal. As we mentioned last week the collection for the work of the Society will take place at all Masses in the diocese and replace the collection for Share. It is in itself an affirmation by our diocese of the significant work, in Christ's name, undertaken by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We thank the local members for their commitment and the many parishioners who support them, not only at this time of appeal but also through the monthly church gate collection.

Today's readings at Mass resonate with our Advent hope and invitation to charity. Isaiah, in the first reading, speaks of the Lord God as a righteous judge, who judges the wretched with integrity. In the great prophet's hymn, dead wood is a symbol for peoples' failures in love and justice while the fresh shoot is a symbol of new hope. One of the great gifts which the world receives in the coming of the Messiah is the establishment of a kingdom of justice and equity. It is something after which every human heart longs and it will find its fulfilment with the coming of Christ in a most unexpected way.

In the second reading, Paul reminds the Christian community in Rome that God doesn't forget his promises. He has sent Jesus as the universal saviour. Our Christian hope is our greatest strength. We are to take Christ as our model for behaviour and love one another as he has loved us. In the Gospel we are called to repentance because the kingdom of heaven is very near.

The message of John the Baptist is clear. Prepare the ways by which the one who saves us is to come. In Advent we hear this uncompromising call to repentance as a key step in our entry into the hope of the Gospel.

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**Baptisms in January**

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in January will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in January will be on Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> 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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**Evening Prayer (Vespers) in Adve**

Advent Evening Prayer continues this Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, at 6.30pm.

It is a simple yet inspiring way of preparing for Christmas and well worth the time. Both young and old are invited.

Father John or Fr. Cormac will preside, the Franciscan Sisters and some parishioners will lead and take the part of cantor.

We need your support. Please, come along with your family and friends. All will be able to join in and it will be no more than half an hour of praise and prayers to God. All welcome.

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**Coffee Morning**

A Coffee Morning is being organised by one of our parishioners, Analiese Culliton, in aid of the Peter McVerry Trust. It will take place in the Star of the Sea school hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December after the 10.30 Mass. There will be plenty of home baked fare including gingerbread men and chocolate chip cookies! Tea and coffee etc.

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**Thank You**

Dear Parents and Guardians we would like to remind you that all children and vulnerable people should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when using the bathroom facilities in our church.

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**Supporting the Parish**

Parishioners are often surprised to hear that collections at Mass, and Christmas and Easter Dues do not go to the upkeep of a parish but to the Diocesan Common Fund enabling the support of priests and to the Share Fund, supporting both the poorer parishes and the central diocesan offices.

We're very grateful to all who directly support the parish through a weekly envelope collection or through standing

orders at specified intervals. Should you wish to avail of the weekly envelope or the form to initiate a regular donation, please don't hesitate to let us know. You may wish to review the amount you give in donation at this time, as we approach the financial year end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

As you know, a traceable donation of €250 or more enables the parish to avail of a tax rebate. This is a good time to review our donations so far this year. It's a pity to find a donation total that's only a couple of Euros short of €250 when for the sake of a small amount, €250 becomes €362 with the benefit of a rebate. It's the sum total of Christmas and Easter dues along with the total in envelope collections, standing orders or recorded once off donations that counts.

Our sincere thanks to all who generously support the parish.

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**ST.VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

The Society's special Christmas Church collection will take the place of the Share collection at all Masses in the parish this weekend, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.

We are very aware that you may be somebody/or know somebody who is in need of assistance. If so please make contact in confidence:

- Through the main St. Vincent de Paul Office at (01) 8550022 and they will notify us.
- By leaving a note (in an envelope addressed to us) in the parish office.
- By phoning our local helpline 086 8461273, for assistance.

**Crosscare** has decided to postpone their usual pre-Christmas food collection to another date in the new year.

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Copies of the Share Annual Report are available at the back of the church. The Archbishop thanks all who contributed to Share last year.

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