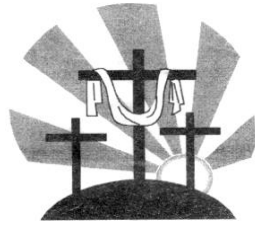


**REST IN PEACE**



Your prayers are requested this weekend for Sean Ralph, Carmel Payne and Ken Hession who have died and for the following whose anniversaries occur; Catherine and Patrick Mason, Brian Tighe, Christopher Murphy, Philip Fitzgerald, Pauline and Jack Crump, Nora and Jim O’ Doherty, Liam Lynch.

MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CHURCH COLLECTIONS**

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	WHITE BASKET
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>	€915	€ 615

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](http://www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com) RCN20016166

**January 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Because Christmas Day fell on a Sunday this year, we enjoyed a long Advent of four full weeks but a correspondingly shorter Epiphany season of only three days. Having begun on Friday, the Feast of Epiphany, the season ends today on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. It brings to a close the great seasons of Nativity – Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Epiphany means Manifestation – the Manifestation of God in the birth of the Christ-child that sees our world in wonderment. It is the flowering of humanity in the company of Christ.

You’ll find it in nature, in the star that guided wise men, in the pursuit of truth and knowledge, in the wonder of the scientific endeavour, in the beauty of the landscape, in the words of the poet, in the sound of music. You’ll find it more deeply and tangibly in the Scriptures, in the coming of a Gentile world to Christ, in the light of a faith that overcomes obstacles and distractions. You’ll find it above all in coming to know and love Christ as the companion of the journey.

‘When out of the holy mouth came angelic grace,  
And the will that had fought had found new merit,  
And all sorts of beautiful things appeared in that place.’

Patrick Kavanagh ‘Birth’  
A short but very sweet season.

We’re back to the First Week in Ordinary Time tomorrow.

### **Parish Pastoral Council**

The Parish Pastoral Council meets this Monday evening at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room.

### **Back to School**

We welcome the children back to our schools and wish them every blessing in the coming term. Our next 'Do this in Memory' Mass will be on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the children and parents preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. The preparation meeting will be on Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> for the parents planning group. The pre sacrament classes for children attending non-Catholic Schools resume this week on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

### **Parish AGM**

The Parish AGM will be held on Wed, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Vacancies on the Parish Pastoral Council are to be filled by election that evening and it's a good time now for people to consider nominations. More on this next week. The AGM will see the Pastoral Council report on its work and the Finance Committee present audited accounts for 2021.

### **Death of Pope Benedict**

We pray for Pope Benedict and thank God for his dedication and life of service. Of Christmas he would say, "Christmas calls us to enter into the very silence of God. ... To become silent means to develop sensitivity to the interior, sensitivity to our conscience, a sensitivity to the Eternal in us, the capacity to listen for God."

May the Lord who called his servant, Pope Benedict XVI, to himself, give him the quiet peace which he sought all his life. May he grant him eternal rest. Archbishop Farrell's full statement on the death of Benedict XVI can be found at [www.dublindiocese.ie/death-of-benedict.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/death-of-benedict.ie).

### **Archbishops homily for Christmas Eve**

Archbishop Farrell's homily at Christmas Eve Mass in the Pro-Cathedral can be found at [www.dublindiocese.ie/christmas-2022](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/christmas-2022) and his homily for World Day of Peace, January 1, also in the Pro-Cathedral can be read at [www.dublindiocese.ie/world-day-of-peace-2023](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/world-day-of-peace-2023).

### **What Church means to me?**

The Dominicans at St Saviour's Priory in Dublin have released a video in which they interview members of the congregation, asking them what their church and community mean to them. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaXNTNBRweW/>.

### **Week of Prayer**

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from January 18 to 25. Its inauguration in Dublin will take place at an interdenominational Service in Christ Church Cathedral on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm, with guest preacher Paul Canon O'Driscoll. The theme this year in "**Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst injustice**". Materials for the 2023 Week of Prayer have been prepared by the Churches in Minneapolis exploring 'how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society'. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a privileged moment of prayer, encounter and dialogue. It is an opportunity to recognise and receive the richness and value that are present in the other, the different, and to ask God for the gift of unity. We appreciate very much the effort made by parishioners to attend the four nights on Advent Evening Prayer held during the weeks of Advent across the local Christian traditions.

### **Building Hope in Parish Partnership**

The Parish Partnerships of the Archdiocese were shared with parishes in the first week of Advent, along with a Timeline and Pastoral Aids which will be used in the next stage of Building Hope. These can be found at [www.dublindiocese.ie/parish-partnerships](http://www.dublindiocese.ie/parish-partnerships). Star of the Sea Parish is to be in partnership with St Mary's, Haddington Rd and St Patrick's, Ringsend, parishes.

### **Synodal Pathway Update**

Some of us in the parish have already been receiving emails with updates and information in relation to the Synod on Synodality (Universal Synod 2021-2024) along with resources that were prepared by the Task Group for the Synodal Pathway here in Ireland. The latest newsletter – with information on how to subscribe to updates – can be found on [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie)

### **Mass at a time to suit young people?**

A number of parents, small at the moment, are conscious of the difficulty presented for families when local sports clubs are actively engaging young people on Sunday mornings, which was traditionally, over centuries, reserved for families attending church services. We all notice how few children attend Mass now. They have hope of creating a family opportunity, embracing parents and children at 6pm on Saturday evenings. If you are interested in linking up with them and their ideas please phone the office and we will in turn put you in touch with the parents involved. They begin this weekend at the Saturday, Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 6pm Mass.