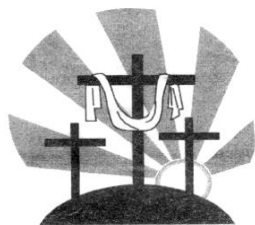


## REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Betty (Elizabeth) Winstanley who died this week.

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

*Bill & Marie Pomeroy; Tommy Bolger; Bernard Whelan; Ailis Hanna; Harry & Nancy Manley;*

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
4 <sup>th</sup> October 2020	€85	€140

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.

## 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 McLraith, Tel: 6686845

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

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### Hard Times

We are all concerned about the spread of this deadly virus. Last weekend the state of the public health warranted a highest level response while at the same time the economy and our mental health warranted staying at a lower level but cried out for our greater responsibility and vigilance. Many businesses have suffered greatly and, while not a business, the church, along with many other charities, has suffered serious consequences. The financial dimension is just one aspect of this vulnerability. We might wonder how we're doing financially during this pandemic?

Without public Masses, we're not surprised to learn that between March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the two funds supported by church collections at Mass have suffered significantly.

The Common Fund is the fund that supports the clergy of the diocese. Both the first collection at Masses and the Christmas and Easter Dues go directly into that Common Fund. When the Banks collapsed over 10 years ago the income of priests in our diocese was cut by 30% and with Covid-19 restrictions this year a further cut of 25% was made. In the Dublin Diocese, because of the basis on which they pay taxes, priests don't qualify for the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme.

The reserves of the Common Fund are depleted. The policy of the management of the Common Fund is that there should be a six month reserve. However, due to the pandemic, there is now only slightly over a two month reserve.

The second fund supported by a collection at Mass on Sunday is the Share collection. It supports poorer parishes but in recent years it's also key to the support of the work of the Diocesan offices. They have been a significant help to parishes in meeting a growing weight of administrative responsibilities. Unfortunately the sharp decline in Share funding has led to several redundancies at diocesan level.

<b>Mass collections 15/3/20 – 22/9/20 compared to the same period in 2019 in the Diocese.</b>			
<b>Collections</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>Decrease %</b>
Share Fund	€757,194	€3,043,920	75%
Common Fund	€1,497,196	€4,660,893	68%

**Online Donations**

These figures for March 2020 to September 2020 include online donations which over the 6 month period represent 9% of the income donated in the diocese. In our own parish since the introduction of online donations in May, a total of €18,200 has been donated online up to the end of September, across the four areas of donation.

<b>Donations Online in our Parish – May to September</b>			
<b>Parish</b>	<b>Common Fund</b>	<b>Share</b>	<b>Dues</b>
€9,610	€3,475	€1,330	€3,785

**Easter Dues**

While the Common Fund suffered a 68% drop in the collections at Mass compared to last year, there was a great response in the Easter Dues in spite of all the difficulties. Across the Diocese the decline in Dues donations was 14%. In our own parish the decrease in Dues (Christmas and Easter) was 7% on last year. Christmas 2019 (€33,177) Easter 2020 (€20,730). We thank you all for maintaining such a level of generosity. It's a significant lift to a depleted Common Fund.

**Parish Income**

Because the Parish Fund rests on Standing Orders and Weekly Envelopes it has been resilient in the face of Covid. We are very grateful too that some parishioners have been very generous during these months in making donations to the parish. When donations are made without stipulating which fund is the beneficiary we invariably put the donation towards the parish. The golf outing, thanks to a great committee, raised €15,000 last year which unfortunately wasn't possible this year in the pandemic. Both the loss of that significant fundraiser and a drop in the shrine donations are areas of decline in the parish funding during Covid. You'll recall that in recent years the shrine donations constituted almost half the total income figure for the parish. Closure doesn't help!

**Curacy**

An area of further support both to the parish and to the diocese is in what is known as 'curacy'. Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals are occasions of donation and the

donations on these occasions are known as 'curacy'. These donations are divided in three portions to the Parish, the Common Fund and to the priest celebrant. These last six months have seen a significant decline in the number of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals (thank God for the latter) in our parish. Both parish and common fund incomes are correspondingly affected.

**Tax Rebate**

We thank everyone who showed generosity to the parish in these months.

Don't forget the significance of the tax rebate that accrues once a cumulative and traceable donation of €250 is made. Every €250 becomes €362. Think about it. A donation of €5 a week will do it but it must be traceable. When you give, you may indeed remain anonymous but you will add to your donation with a name and address.

Hopefully, we'll come to victory over this virus before too much injury to our way of life is suffered by us all.

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**Enrolment for Sacraments 2022**

At this time we invite parents who wish their child to be enrolled in preparation for Confirmation in 2022 and are presently attending fifth class in a non-Catholic school to register their intention with us by phoning the parish office, Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

We similarly invite parents of children attending 1<sup>st</sup> class in a non-Catholic school who wish their child to prepare for first Communion in 2022 to register their intention by phoning the parish office.

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**Celebration of Baptism**

We regret that for the time being under Government direction we are unable to hold Baptism celebrations in the Church. As you know in recent months we have celebrated Baptism with families one at a time and within HSE guidelines. We thank all who were so cooperative in doing so and hope that it won't be long before the celebration of Baptism may resume.

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**Mission Sunday**

Mission Sunday is next Sunday. Envelopes are left on the table at the back of the church inviting your support. However difficult life has become for us consider how much more difficult the situations in which Irish missionaries are working. Let us please give them our support and pray for them.