



REST IN PEACE

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

Helen McDonagh; Nora & Imelda Raleigh; Anne Collins; Christopher Murphy; Richard Reid; Sarah & Joseph Kane; May Nolan;

and for Eithna O'Leary & Declan Meagher 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.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	SHARE
5 th January 2020	€1,455	€880

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 McIlraith, Tel: 6686845

www.stmarysstaroftheseasandymount.com

Sunday 12th January 2020

The Baptism of Our Lord

With today's Feast we bring the short season of Epiphany to a close. At the same time it is the beginning of Our Lord's public ministry when he was baptised in the Jordan by John. We begin the journey with St. Matthew's Gospel as week after week this year (a break for Lent, Easter and Pentecost) until November 22nd we read from that particular Gospel. The following year it will be St. Mark's Gospel and the year after that again, as last year, St. Luke's Gospel takes centre stage.

As our own faith journey begins with Baptism we might view this year as an opportunity to journey with Jesus in St. Matthew's Gospel to understand and deepen our appreciation for what it means to be called to live a Christian life. As we contemplate an episode of the Gospel each week, we ask ourselves what it may mean for our lives and ask the Lord to enable our generous response to him.

When Jesus was baptised he was identifying with us in all of humanity, the good, the bad and the ugly of our experience. When we were baptised we were identified with him in his life, death and resurrection. May people recognise the Lord in each of us and in all who are baptised.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be observed as usual from next Saturday, January 18th to 25th January 2020. Its inauguration in Dublin will take place at an interdenominational Service in the Church of the Assumption, Booterstown Avenue, on Sunday next 19th January 2020 at 4.00pm. The Rev. Abigail Sines, Dean's Vicar, Christchurch Cathedral, will preach the sermon.

This year the theme, 'Unusual Kindness' was chosen by the Christian Churches in Malta reflecting on the 'drama of St. Paul' who experienced unity and acts of kindness locally following his shipwreck on the island.

Mary Aikenhead Sunday

On Sunday next the parish will mark the birth of Mary Aikenhead, who founded the Irish Sisters of Charity and lived for some time in Sandymount Parish. Declared 'Venerable' in March 2015, it is right that our parish should cherish and celebrate her memory. She was born on the 19th January 1787 in Cork and died in 1858. Pat Coyle, our fellow parishioner and broadcaster, who works at the Jesuit Communications Office, has been invited to speak to us of Mary Aikenhead's life at our Masses on Sunday morning next.

Baptisms in February

Our next meeting in preparation for Baptisms to be celebrated in February will be held on Monday 27th January 2020, at 8pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The celebrations of Baptism in February will be on Sunday February 2nd and 16th, after the 12 noon Mass.

Parents are asked to please register with the Parish Office in advance of Monday 27th January and to attend the preparatory meeting.

Christmas Dues Donations

Fr. John and Fr. Cormac would like to thank parishioners who have already sent in their Christmas Dues. Envelopes may be handed into the Sacristy/Parish office or put in the letter-box in the Parish office door

Supporting the Parish

As we begin a new financial year from January 1st this may be a good time to review donations to the Parish. Many people are surprised to learn that the weekly collections at Mass as well as the Christmas and Easter donations do not go to Parish funds. To support the Parish one may avail of a box of weekly envelopes which can be placed in the collection basket at Mass or alternatively, one might organise a standing order donation or indeed a once off donation at any time. Because such donations are traceable they become part of a possible tax rebate. As you know a cumulative donation of €250 or more in a tax year will qualify for a significant tax rebate in favour of the Parish. Please let

us know if you would like to avail of the donation envelopes or the form for the standing order donation.

Do This in Memory

Our next 'Do This in Memory' Mass with the children and parents preparing for First Communion and First Reconciliation will be on Sunday January 26th. The meeting of the parents' group to plan that Mass will be on Saturday next at 9.00am in the meeting room.

By now the Thumbs book should be filled with colour and completed exercises between pages 40 and 53. How are we doing? Before our next Mass parents are asked to share pages 16 and 17 with your child – introducing what happens in the Liturgy of the Word. The material in Grapevine 4, that was distributed after our last Mass on Dec. 15th is also intended to assist parents in preparing their children this month.

A gentle reminder! Some parents may have forgotten to pay the €20 covering the Thumbs book, Grapevine newsletters and the other items (rosary beads, holy water containers, pray cards and certificates). Thanks to all who have helped us meet the costs involved.

Legion of Mary

Appeal for members (Active & Auxiliary)

This weekend, legionaries are inviting parishioners to visit a meeting of the Legion of Mary, on Wed. next 15th January at 3 pm or 8.15 pm. in the Parish meeting room. This is the best way to find out what it's all about without committing to anything.

Next year is the centenary of the Legion of Mary & it will be celebrated around the World. Many people will be visiting Dublin, to see where the biggest lay organisation in the Catholic church began. Frank Duff, it's founder, recognised the important role which lay people, through their baptism, should play in the Apostolic life of the Church, under it's guidance. The Legion provides a structure of prayer and work, whereby its members can fulfil that role.

What active Legion membership involves : Active members try to attend a meeting & give 2 hours weekly, doing some work in the parish, with the permission of the parish priest & assigned at the meeting. All work is done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit & offered to Jesus through Mary, our Mother. Why not give it a try & experience its blessings?

Clothing Collection for St. Vincent de Paul

The Society is seeking your help in its Annual Clothing Appeal in this Parish. The Appeal is for clean, good-quality clothes, bedclothes, curtains, shoes etc. Bags will be available outside the church on the weekend of 16th and 17th February and the Society will collect the bags outside the church on the following weekend, 23rd / 24th February at the Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses.

The Society is very conscious of the tremendous support given by the parishioners of this Parish for their charitable works over the years. They would like to thank you all most sincerely on behalf of those you have helped.