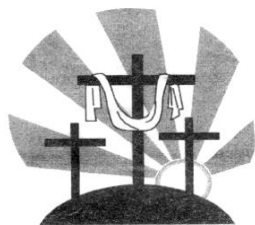


REST IN PEACE



Your prayers are requested this weekend for the soul of Peter Shaffrey who died this week and also for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Ellen & Joseph Donnelly; Baby Claire Kennedy; Michael & Mary Lucey; Peter Clarke & his grandson, Samuel Clarke; Larry Whelan; Damian Reade; Jack & Betty Ryder; Breda & Paddy Browne; James & Elizabeth O'Neill; Justin McEntegart; Peggy MacNamara.

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
6 th December 2020	€1,115	€545

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 13th December 2020

St. Vincent de Paul Appeal

Last week we commended Crosscare to you in their appeal for online donations to assist their work. Unable to hold their annual Advent food collection across the diocese, a collection that helped maintain their supplies at food centres and also denied their special annual collection at Masses on September 20th because churches had again closed, their appeal is urgent to help their excellent work in our diocese. www.crosscare.ie and info@crosscare.ie.

This week it's the turn of the St. Vincent de Paul Society when the annual appeal is made at all Masses in our parish and across the diocese. We welcome members of our local conference who will address us at all Masses. The work of the St. Vincent de Paul speaks for itself and we commend your support.

Gaudete Sunday

You will notice the note of joy in the prayers, antiphons and readings on this third Sunday of Advent when the pink colour on the Advent Wreath connotes 'Joy'. We wait in joyful hope.

Covid Update

Because of COVID-19 and the related Government regulations only a small number of us will be able to attend Mass in the church this Christmas. We invite you to join us by webcam should you be among those not lucky to have gained an entrance ticket in this Tuesday's raffle. The raffle extends also to Masses on Sunday 27th December.

We rely on those successful in the raffle to come to the parish office / meeting room to collect entry tickets to each of the Masses.

In his letter this week the Archbishop reminds us of important aspects of our discipline and of newly stated regulations from the HSE.

- Current government guidelines must be adhered to. COVID-19 is easily spread and we all need to exercise supreme caution.
- Stay away – if anyone becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 (or other infectious diseases) or have been in contact in the previous 14 days with someone who tested positive.
- Persons who are vulnerable because of age or ill health are strongly advised to participate via webcam or radio (CB).
- Social distancing should be maintained at all times and there should be no gathering outside church doors before or after.
- Members of a household may sit together but otherwise a two metre social distancing in seating must be observed.
- Cloth masks should be worn. Visors should not be used unless a person has specific problems with using cloth face coverings.
- The priest should wear a mask except when delivering an address.
- Books and leaflets should be removed. (For this reason papers and magazines are available only in the office area.) Each person should bring and take away their own reading material if required.
- Congregational singing, choir singing and carol singing are not permitted and use of wind instruments avoided.
- Concelebration is not allowed. There should be no hand contact in distribution of communion. You're encouraged to use your own hand gel before receiving Communion. At communion

time, directions unique to each church for safe movement should be followed.

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Fratelli Tutti – What's happening on our Borders

The Mediterranean has been the scene of great disaster in recent years in the repeated drowning of poor people, whether escaping injustice or seeking new opportunities. That scene of denial of human dignity is the fifth focal point of Pope Francis in his review of our difficulty in forging universal brotherhood. It both reveals the problem and its contributing factors.

He identifies populist political regimes and certain approaches in liberal economics as resisting at all costs the influx of migrants and as forcing austerity measures on poorer countries. In doing so they put many lives at stake.

Unrealistic expectations of Western culture often leave migrants vulnerable to traffickers and a related world of violence and abuse. While home communities are often deprived of important members in migrancy, the migrant often feels both a cultural and a religious uprooting also. There is a need to reaffirm one's right to remain in one's homeland.

Fear of migrants can often be exploited politically in host countries too. Xenophobia needs to be addressed decisively and the intrinsic dignity of every person upheld. Nobody will openly deny that they're human beings but by our decisions and our treatment of them we can show how less important they are in our eyes. (Think of Ireland's Direct Provision Centres).

For Christians this isn't acceptable, putting political preferences above our faith. We have a twofold duty to protect the rights of citizens and to assure assistance and acceptance to migrants. Fear deprives us of the ability to encounter the other often.

While Francis understands that some will be hesitant and fearful with regard to migrants but migration, more than ever before, 'will play a pivotal role in the future of the world.' An individual and a people, however self defensive in natural instinct, will not become 'fruitful and productive unless they develop a creative openness to others.'

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Advent Services

You're invited again this week to attend or view on webcam at 4.00pm this Sunday afternoon another in the series of four Advent Prayer Services in the parish.

